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SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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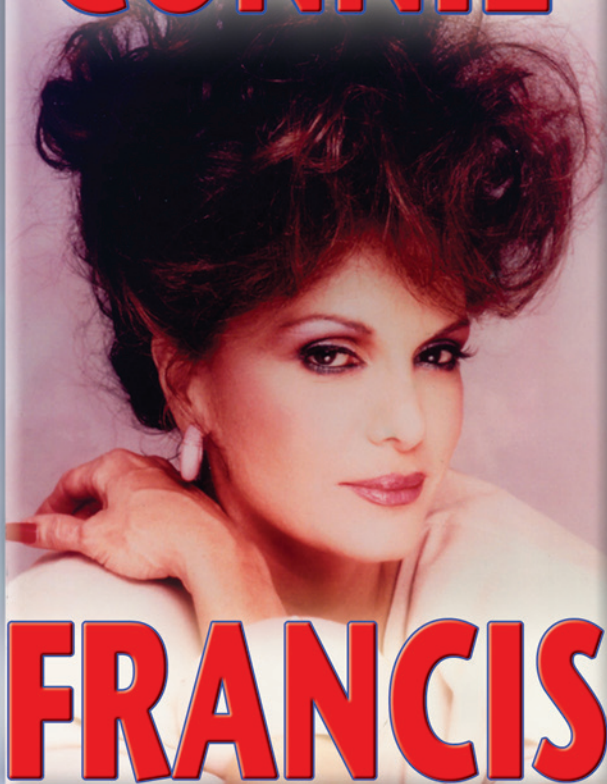


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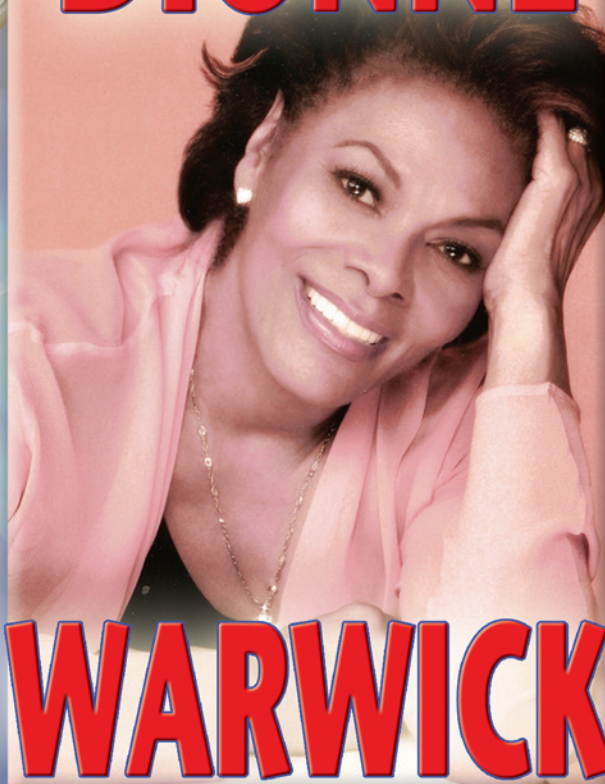
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Thirty-two deserving difference- makers



Welcome to our annual People with Pride issue. We're up to 32 this time, can you believe it? That's the number of years *QVegas* and its previous titles have been around, serving the southern Nevada LGBT community, so every year we increase the number of active community members and supporters to profile in our pages.

Every year, I fear we'll have one doozy of a time finding enough people to honor in our May issue. Between our People with Pride issues and The Center's annual Honorary, I've joked that we're certain to run out of people who are active enough in our community to deserve these honors. But then we sit around making our list and taking suggestions from our friends and, lo and behold, the names of dozens of deserving volunteers and do-gooders flow onto the page.

Last year and this year alike have both been quite enjoyable for me, as I've also taken on the challenge of photographing the majority of our People with Pride, both for their profiles and the cover. Many of them I may have seen around town yet never met, and some are old acquaintances I simply haven't seen in some time, so the days they appear in our makeshift studio are always a

pleasure for me and the rest of our staff.

We truly hope you enjoy reading the more than three-dozen profiles, biographies and Q&A's we've compiled for this issue. We also hope you'll be inspired by their stories to get out and become more active with the multitude of non-profit organizations and social groups that serve our LGBT population. Who knows, you may make it into one of our future issues for your own good deeds!

On a side note, I'm quite thrilled by President Obama's recent order extending health-care rights to gay and lesbian partners, forcing hospitals to honor the patient's wishes on who may visit and consult on treatment. I was very lucky when my partner was hospitalized in 2008 and the nurses and doctors were so kind, never denying my visitation or withholding information on his condition and progress. Not everyone has been so lucky, so I feel his order is yet another positive step toward equality for all.

M. Cory Burgess
Editor/Creative Director

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Do you have something on your mind? Do you have something to say about an article in *QVegas* or any topic of interest to our readers? Do you have an idea for a future story? We want to hear from you! Simply send an e-mail to Editor@QVegas.com. Letters to the Editor may be printed in a future issue if signed.



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READER LETTERS

To the Editor:

As one of the members of CRUSH, I was shocked by the "Hooked on Hookahs?" article published in the April 2010 edition of *QVegas*. This article was plagued with untruths, statements of opinion stated as facts, and, as the author claimed to own a hookah bar in Las Vegas, was written by someone with a vested interest in promoting hookah bars. I write this letter to call attention to the actual scientific data that shows the health risks involved in hookah use, and encourage *QVegas* readers to review the evidence themselves.

Firstly, the author claims that no scientific study has been published that shows second-hand and/or direct hookah smoke is equally as bad as cigarette smoke. This claim is reckless and untrue. There are, in fact, studies that have shown the negative effects of smoking hookah in direct comparison to cigarettes. Hookah was shown to have considerably negative effects on the human body regarding carbon monoxide levels, decreased peak expiratory flow rates, increased infertility among men, and low birth weight and higher rates of respiratory distress in infants whose mothers smoked hookah.

For example, in the December 1, 2009 issue of the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, a direct comparison of hookah use and cigarette smoking indicated that, on average, carbon monoxide was over eight times higher for hookah than for cigarette smoking, and peak hookah carboxyhemoglobin levels were three times those observed for cigarette smoking. The researchers concluded that "relative to cigarette smoking, [hookah] use is associated with greater carbon monoxide, similar nicotine, and dramatically more smoke exposure." In other words, using hookah exposes the smoker to more harmful chemicals than cigarettes.

Also, research published 2004 unravels the myth that the use of the water filter in a hookah pipe eliminates harmful chemicals in the tobacco. The scientists stated that "toxic constituents including nicotine, carbon monoxide, tar, and heavy metals remain after the smoke passes through the water before inhalation by the smoker, with potentially increased risk of malignancy, impaired lung function, and cardiovascular disease." Simply put, the water filter does not remove the dangerous, harmful parts of the tobacco smoked through a hookah. The same study goes on to comment on second-hand smoke, stating, "Second-hand smoke from [hookahs] is a mixture of tobacco smoke in addition to smoke from the fuel and therefore poses a serious risk for nonsmokers." This evidence clearly contradicts the author's direct claim that hookah smoke is not as harmful as cigarette smoke, and shows that hookah smoking is a risky behavior.

Another argument in the article is that the amount of smoke a person inhales while smoking cigarettes is less than one would inhale during a longer smoking session with a hookah. However, in a scientific study published in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* that directly compared the volume of smoke inhaled from a hookah and a cigarette, the results indicated that the mean total puff volume from a hookah was 48.6 L, whereas the mean total puff volume for a cigarette was significantly lower, at 1.0 L. The author is right that cigarette users smoke more often than hookah smokers, but hookah smokers inhale as much as 48 cigarettes worth of smoke in each sitting!

The author also claims that no studies have linked cancer with hookah smoking. This is also incorrect. A 1989 case-control study of 214 Chinese tin miners found that those who had ever used hookah were twice as likely to develop lung cancer compared with nonsmokers. Plus, the study showed that the more people used hookah, the more their risk increased. Hookah is linked to lung cancer, that's a fact.

There are more research examples that prove the claims of the original article untrue. Still, we hope there will be even more research on hookah use and its affect on human health since hookah bars continue to pop up around college campuses and town centers. CRUSH would like to encourage readers of *QVegas* to look at the real research about hookah before making their own decision, rather than simply Hookah propaganda. The evidence, as I've found, is overwhelming.

Many thanks for your time.

Dylan Peterson
CRUSH Las Vegas

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OUR QMMUNITY

10th youth prom coming May 22

It's prom season again, and recent news has reaffirmed that LGBTQ youth still face harassment and discrimination in schools specifically surrounding attendance at prom. In March of this year, a lesbian high school student in Mississippi requested permission to bring her girlfriend as her date to prom and wear a tuxedo, so the school decided to cancel the entire event. Although a US District Court Judge ruled the school's actions as a violation of the young student's First Amendment rights, the prom was not reinstated.

This month marks a very special anniversary for The Gay and Lesbian Community Center—its 10th annual prom for LGBTQ youth and their allies, ages 13–24. This event provides safe, affirming space where young people can bring the date of their choice and wear the prom attire in which they are most comfortable, all the while enjoying music, dancing, food and socializing with their peers. Approximately 150 young people attend The Center's prom. This year, the event is themed

MasQUEERade Ball and will take place on Saturday, May 22 from 7–11 p.m. at Christ Church Episcopal (2000 S. Maryland Pkwy.). Admission is a suggested donation of \$5 per person, but no one will be turned away for inability to pay. Highlights of the event include free photographs, a chocolate fondue fountain and a prom royalty crowning ceremony.

The Center estimates that it costs approximately \$50 per attendee or \$7,500 total to hold this very special event, which is only made possible through the generous donations of community members. Please help The Center give the gift of acceptance—a chance for all LGBTQ youth to go to prom, the kind where all young people feel welcome and valued. To make a donation in any amount, visit The Center's Web site at www.thecenterlv.com or contact Arlene Cooper at (702) 733-9800.

For additional information on MasQUEERade Ball or other youth services available at The Center, contact Mel Goodwin at mel@thecenterlv.com or (702) 733-9800. ●

HRC urges support of fair-minded candidates this season

As the 2010 political campaign season ramps up, now is the time to learn more and support fair-minded candidates that are pro-LGBT initiatives. Right now the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) nationally is working hard to fight the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT). On a local level, HRC Las Vegas is aligning its members to help support political candidates that favor equality for Nevadans.



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"If you are a member of the LGBT community or one of our straight allies, it's critical to make your voice heard in the upcoming election," said Dawn Christensen, HRC Political Committee co-chair. "Take some time to learn about the candidates and where they stand on our issues because they make the laws, good and bad, that affect our community. Casting your ballot on Election Day is one of the most effective ways you can make a difference for LGBT rights."

If you are a registered voter, here are a few important dates to remember: Primary Election Day is Tuesday, June 8 (early voting: Saturday, May 22–Friday, June 4) and General Election Day is Tuesday, November 2 (early voting: Saturday, October 16–Friday, October 29).

The Las Vegas HRC chapter, now in its fifth year, has more than 7,500 supporters locally and 750,000 LGBT and straight ally members nationally. The HRC works every day to bring equality to the LGBT community. The Las Vegas organization hosts and leads issues around local, state and federal interests. These efforts include forums around women's health, adoption issues, estate planning, legislative lobbying efforts, diversity outreach programs and more.

Make sure to mark your calendars for these upcoming HRC local events: May's Federal Club Third Thursday Mixer on May 20. HRC 101 will be held in June at the LGBT Center. HRC 2010 Annual Gala Dinner will be held on Saturday, August 28 at Paris Las Vegas.

If you are interested in receiving political updates and volunteer opportunities, find the Las Vegas HRC Steering Committee on Twitter and Facebook as well as online at lasvegas.hrc.org. ●

NGRA hosts Miss Closet Ball and Memorial Day party

The Nevada Gay Rodeo Association (NGRA) will host its annual Miss Closet Ball Competition on Saturday, May 8 beginning at 9:30 p.m. at Charlie's Las Vegas. Come on down to that little ole bitty country place for a whole lot of fun.

In Miss Closet Ball, contestants are first introduced as men or women, then they have one hour to transform into female or male impersonators. They must have a sponsor assisting them with make-up as well as hair removal (if necessary). Contestants are



judged on their transformation, their entertainment attire, and their entertainment ability. NGRA will also be hosting a beer bust, and selling Jell-O shots and raffle tickets at the event. If you'd like to compete, please contact David Blackwood (a.k.a. Taylor Trash, last year's Miss Closet Ball) at president@ngra.com for all the details.

Join NGRA at Badlands on May 22 at 9 p.m. for their Memorial Day party sure to be chock-full of fun with a beer bust and Jell-O shots to boot. Visit www.ngra.com for info. ●

Mpowerment Project hosts M-Day II

It's that time again, so dig in your closets and pull out your favorite superhero costume. The Vegas Mpowerment Project will host its second annual M-Day event for guys ages 18 to 29 on Saturday, June 5 from 7 p.m.–10 p.m. The theme for this year's festivities will be "M-Day II: Torn from the Pages."

The fabulous Ginger Grant will Emcee the evening's activities, which will all take place at The Center (located at 953 E. Sahara Ave., Ste. B-31). High-

lights of the event include three different costume contests, food, music and tons of fun—all free of charge! Over 100 guys attended M-Day last year, so be sure to save the date because this is an event you won't want to miss.

For more information on M-Day or Vegas Mpowerment Project, contact Joshua Montgomery by e-mail at joshua@thecenterlv.com or call (702) 733-9800. ●

Young Men

Royal Court kicks fund-raising into high gear with four events

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo on May 5 at 8 p.m. at Badlands with a Salsa (Dip) Contest; bring your best salsa and \$5 to enter the contest. The event will be hosted by Ken Wells and Miss Frankie, King Midas and Golden Goddess 2009.

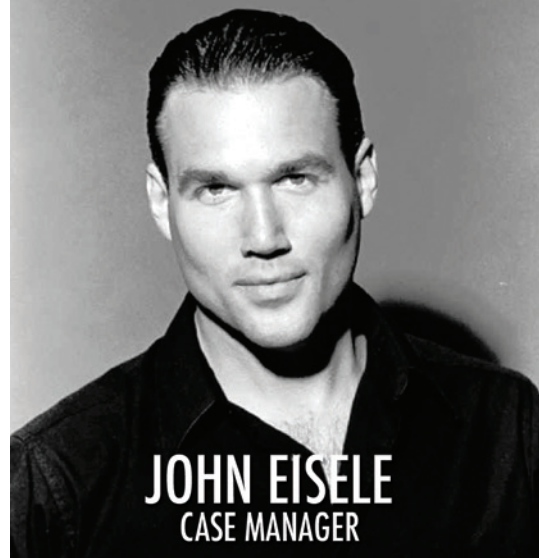
On May 7 at Badlands at 9 p.m., join the Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire, Inc. for School's in Session, with proceeds benefitting the TNT Scholarship Fund—a fund which annually distributes scholarships to deserving local area college students. Hosted by Terry Freeman and Truly LaFemme, the show is sure to be outstanding with Jell-O shots and a beer bust.

The Court is pleased to host the fourth in the series of competitive camp pageants hosted by the Court to raise money for our community—The King & Queen of Spades Pageant. The pageant begins at 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 15 at Spotlight. Contestants are welcome—contact Vivianne DuMonde at reyandmatt@aol.com.

Finally, Bootsy Carmichael, 12th Elected Empress of all of Southern Nevada, cordially invites everyone in Las Vegas—but especially fellow organizations—to participate in Court Olympics, which promises to be a fun evening with games and prizes. Join the Court at Charlie's at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 29. ●

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Grand Divas of Stage show unites Connie Francis and Dionne Warwick

December 12 incredibly just happens to be the shared birth date of two of the world's most recognizable voices and successful female recording artists of all time. Defining and personifying the term pop diva, Connie Francis still holds the world record for being the Biggest-Selling Female Recording Artist of the '50s and '60s, while Dionne Warwick came and picked up the gauntlet to rack up equally enormous recording sales success in the '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s.

And now for the first time ever, under the production auspices of international impresario and producer, Eric Floyd and a 25-piece orchestra, these two living legendary ladies of

song have decided to join forces for a very limited series of once-in-a-lifetime dual concert global events that just have got to be seen to be believed, kicking off at the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel & Casino.

Francis and Warwick are part of an elite and small class of phenomenal femme fatales who sit afar, apart and above the others on the road that they have paved. They stand alone quite simply as the "Grand Divas of Stage."

Tickets are priced at \$59, \$79 and \$99 plus VIP Diva Meet and Greet seating is available for \$125. Call the Hilton box office at (702) 732-5755 or 1-800-222-5361. Learn more about the property at www.lv Hilton.com. ●



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Unitarian Universalists to host free LGBT film series

In support of Las Vegas PRIDE, the Las Vegas Unitarian Universalists are hosting a Free Film Series 6-8:30 p.m., every Sunday in May. Each film has been selected for portrayal and discussion of LGBT issues.

MAY 2 — *Outrage* — *Los Angeles Times* says, "Academy Award nominated filmmaker Kirby Dick delivers a searing indictment of the hypocrisy of closeted politicians who actively campaign against the GBLT community they covertly belong to. *Outrage* boldly reveals the hidden lives of some of our nation's most powerful policy makers, details the harm they've inflicted on millions of Americans, and examines the media's complicity in keeping their secrets." Local politicians are being invited for a panel discussion.

May 9 — *Desert Hearts* — Set in 1950s Reno, *Desert Hearts* tells the story of a 35-year-old uptight female professor who comes to town to file for divorce and ends up falling in love with a free-spirited 25-year-old female casino worker. *Desert Hearts* won a Grand Jury Prize at Sundance in 1986.

May 16 — *Latter Days* — Wesley Morris of *Boston Globe* says the film "offers the enjoyable, improbable, but certainly not impossible tale of Aaron, a well-scrubbed Mormon missionary who falls in love with his neighbor, a fast-living Los Angeles waiter and fashion victim named Christian."

May 23 — *Soldiers Girl* — This powerful drama tells the true story of a young soldier who meets and falls for a beautiful transgender nightclub performer while on a drunken outing with fellow soldiers. His relationship is frowned upon by the other soldiers and eventually leads to tragedy. This is an opportunity for discussion of homophobia.

May 30 — *Rocky Horror Picture Show* — While driving home during a rain-filled night, straight-laced lovebirds Brad and Janet, by chance, end up at the castle of one Dr. Frank-N-Furter and his strange and bizarre entourage, and find that he's having a party. This is no ordinary party, no ordinary night.

All free screenings will take place at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas (3616 Lake Mead Blvd.). For more information, call (702) 437-2404 or visit www.uuclv.org. The public (ages 18 and up) is welcome to attend. ●

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An Evening at La Cage returns, but this time in Palm Springs

After the long-running *An Evening at La Cage* closed last February after a stellar 24-year run at the Riviera, many cast members either hit the club circuit or found jobs not in entertainment. Jimmy Emerson took another route: he started searching for a new stage for the show. The long-awaited result is that the show will open May 19 at the Spa Resort Casino in downtown Palm Springs, Calif.

In the midst of a devastating economic downturn that has hit Las Vegas entertainers particularly hard, the news of a show being reborn is good news indeed.

Producer Norbert Aleman owns the name *An Evening at La Cage*, but he has graciously given Emerson permission to use it, saying, "I'm happy to see my kids go back to work and only want the best for them." By "kids," he means

the loyal cast members who worked for him over the years.

Luckily for the show, Emerson is not only a brilliant comedic performer but also a seasoned producer whose company, Starr Pro Productions, has booked over 100 different acts and performers everywhere from Las Vegas to Brazil in the past two decades. He produces up to eight new productions a year around the United States. So, it came as no surprise that Ian Hammer of the Hammer Company called him about the Palm Springs gig.

"I went and looked at the showroom at the Spa Resort, and it is considerably smaller than the one at the Riviera," Emerson said. "However, it's the perfect intimate cabaret for a show like ours." Because the room seats 200, Emerson decided to keep all the high production values of the original but use a smaller cast. "Each person in the cast is so versatile that the audience will get a sensational show," said Emerson. Plus with the Broadway revival of the musical *La Cage aux Folles*, with Frasier's Kelsey Grammer, the highly skilled professional art form of female impersonation is once again being sought out and making headlines in the news.

Scheduled to appear in the Palm Springs show are Jimmy Emerson, who will host and perform his famous comedy numbers; Brent Allen as Bette Midler and Judy Garland; Ryan Zink as Reba McEntire and Marilyn Monroe; Wendal Jackson as Dionne Warwick and Tina Turner; and Lane Lassiter as Michael Jackson.

An Evening at La Cage will run at the Spa Resort Casino, 401 East Amado Road, for two weeks until the season officially ends, then come back in the fall for a full-season run. During the initial run, the show will play at 8 p.m. on May 19, 20, 26 and 27. Call the Spa Resort Casino at (888) 999-1995 for ticket info. ●



Elton John tribute comes to Suncoast

Almost Elton John stars multi-talented singer and pianist Craig A. Meyer, whose credits include appearances in film, television, even Broadway. Today, Meyer is known to be one of the best Elton John tribute acts in the industry. His strong vocals, looks and amazing talent on the piano has every audience remembering "When Rock Was Young." Meyer performs in the US

and overseas in casino showrooms, theatres, corporate events and special events.

Meyer is bringing his act to the Suncoast Casino in Las Vegas on May 29 and 30. Tickets may be purchased online at www.suncoastcasino.com or by calling (702) 636-7111 or (877) 677-7111. To learn more about Meyer and his show, visit www.almosteltonhohn.com. ●



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Primary Election Endorsements

By ROB SCHLEGEL

Former Publisher, Las Vegas Bugle (1986-2002)
Special to Las Vegas Night Beat and Q Vegas

Pride – yes, LGBT Pride – isn't about parties, parades and looking sexy. It's about equal rights and the politics it takes to gain on that equality. If LGBT citizens don't vote, they've really no right to celebrate.

While we want you to enjoy the pride festivities, please take a fraction of that energy and vote – or we'll soon have less to celebrate. Let's continue the progress we've made and then celebrate that we're part of the modern day fight that began with Stonewall on June 28, 1969 – the day we stood up to persecution.

Each election cycle, a group of civic-minded individuals with intense interest in Southern Nevada politics, gathers to endorse candidates for various offices up for election. This year for the primary, early begins May 22 and runs through June 4 with regular voting taking place on Tuesday, June 8. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

These endorsements will be available online at www.NevadaImpact.com, published in both QVegas and the Las Vegas Night Beat.

This list of endorsements is published to help the LGBT community be better informed about candidates and to impact the outcome of the election. Our panel has the best interest of the LGBT community at heart, but your priorities can best be voiced and voted by doing your own research.

Please understand that many races are not listed because there is no primary. Other races may only have a Republican or a Democrat primary. In many cases, we may endorse one party's candidate in the primary but endorse an opposing party's candidate in the general.

Races which do not appear on this endorsement list will appear on the general ballot.

U.S. Senate

✓ Harry Reid, Democrat

While the Senate moves at its own pace, we'll never get equality without Sen. Reid. He was instrumental in passing the Mathew Shepherd Bill, ENDA and he kept the Constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage from ever reaching the Senate floor.

✓ Sue Lowden, Republican

While we're endorsing Sen. Reid, if it came down to a choice of a Republican, throw in a chicken and Sue Lowden would get our vote.

Representative In Congress Dist. 1

✓ Berkley, Shelley, Democrat

There isn't a primary in this race because every Republican with any intelligence will be voting for Shelley Berkley. We have no endorsement in the Republican primary.

No Republican Endorsement

Representative In Congress, Dist. 2

✓ Nancy Price, Democrat

If you know Nancy Price, without question, you would give her your vote. Very happy to see

she joined her husband, Bob Price, as a Dem.

✓ Dean Heller, Republican

Vote for Heller if you want two more years of obstructionism and if you think the Constitution should treat you like a second class citizen.

Representative In Congress Dist. 3

✓ Titus, Dina, Democrat

She's always been a true friend and stands for what is right.

No Republican endorsement

Governor

✓ Rory Reid, Democrat

He did endorse Question 2 back in 2000-2002 but otherwise, he's been a great friend of our community.

✓ Brian Sandoval, Republican

Again, he signed the pledge against same-sex marriage but he did support domestic partnerships.



Lieutenant Governor

✓ Paul Murad, Democrat

✓ Robert S. Randazzo, Democrat

✓ Jessica Sferrazza, Democrat

Can't go wrong with any of the three above.

✓ Brian K. Krolicki, Republican

Krolicki is a good choice.

Secretary Of State

✓ Ross Miller, Democrat

Were you one of the lucky ones who received their domestic partnership certificates directly from Ross Miller? Great guy, let's keep him.

State Controller

Kim Wallin, the Democrat incumbent, doesn't have a primary and there's not a Republican qualified for the job.

No Republican endorsement.

Attorney General

✓ Catherine Cortez Masto, Democrat

Catherine Cortez Masto is doing a fine job. Let's keep her in office.

No Republican endorsement.

State Senate, Dist. 5 (Seat B)

No Republican endorsement

We're going with Joyce Woodhouse in the general.

State Senate, Dist. 7 (Seat B)

✓ Manendo, Mark, Democrat

✓ McClain, Kathy, Democrat

Take your pick. Both are good on our issues

✓ Marsh, Trish, Republican

Good on our issues

State Senate, Dist. 8

✓ Peterson, Tammy, Democrat

State Senate, Dist. 9

✓ Yerushalmi, Benny, Democrat

Would make a supportive State Senator

✓ Nolan, Dennis, Republican

Good on our issues and was the lone Republican to vote "yes" for domestic partnerships.

State Senate, Dist. 10

✓ Augustine, Dallas, Republican

State Senate, Dist. 12

No Republican endorsement

Face it, they're all bad candidates. We're going with Aaron Ford, the Democrat, in the general.

State Assembly, Dist. 1

✓ Kirkpatrick, Marilyn, Democrat

✓ Trudeau, Mark, Republican

State Assembly, Dist. 2

No Republican endorsement

...but we'll tell you John Hambrick is a jackass (even though he's an elephant).

State Assembly, Dist. 3

No Republican endorsement

We love Peggy Pierce, the Dem, but she has no primary.

State Assembly, Dist. 4

✓ Fisher, Gary, Democrat

Incredibly progressive and not afraid to voice his opinion.

State Assembly, Dist. 5

No Republican endorsement.

State Assembly, Dist. 7,

✓ Essex, Carolyn J., Democrat

Great on our issues ... and you'll see her everywhere.

State Assembly, Dist. 8

✓ Frierson, Jason, Democrat

No Republican endorsement.

State Assembly, Dist. 11

No Democrat endorsement.

State Assembly, Dist. 13

No Endorsements in this race.

State Assembly, Dist. 14

✓ Carlton, Maggie, Democrat

Another favorite. SB-283 (DP law) wouldn't have made it out of committee without her. Thanks!

Primary Election Endorsements

State Assembly, Dist. 15

✓ **Anderson, Elliot T., Democrat**

Progressive, veteran and great friend of our community.

State Assembly, Dist. 16

No Republican endorsement

State Assembly, Dist. 18

✓ **Considine, Venicia, Democrat**
✓ **Enwright, Lon West, Democrat**

Both good on our issues but we're giving the nod to Considine

No Republican endorsement.

State Assembly, Dist. 19

✓ **Smith, Meghan, Democrat**

Known to be supportive on our issues.

State Assembly, Dist. 20

No Endorsements in this race.

State Assembly, Dist. 21

✓ **Sherwood, Mark, Republican**

Mostly okay on our issues but we're supporting Ellen Spiegel, the Democrat, in the general.

State Assembly, Dist. 22

No Democrat endorsement.

No Republican endorsement.

But we'll tell not to vote for either Calanit Atia or Lynn Stewart

State Assembly, Dist. 28

No Republican endorsement.

No Democrat primary but the two Republicans are perennial candidates.

State Assembly, Dist. 42

✓ **Bustamante Adams, Irene, Dem.**

✓ **Christos, Sam, Democrat**

We'll tell you that both Irene Bustamante Adams and Sam Christos are strong supporters on our issues.

County Comm. Dist. F

No Republican endorsement.

County Comm. Dist. G

✓ **Parks, David, Democrat**

Many people helped advance the cause of LGBT rights in Nevada, but no one has done more through the legislative process than Senator David Parks. Assy.man David Parks passed the state version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act in 1999. This past year, Senator Parks, nurtured SB 283 through the legislature — giving LGBT Nevadans the legal rights if domestic partners. From protection to People Living with HIV to the rights of women to choose what happens to their bodies, Senator Parks has been a tireless advocate for the rights of all human beings. We endorse him enthusiastically! No responsible LGBT advocate would think of endorsing anyone else.

Clark County Assessor

✓ **Shafe, Michele W., Democrat**

No Republican endorsement.

Clark County Clerk

✓ **Alba, Diana, Democrat**

She's doing a good job. Let's keep her. Gloria Bonaventura is a "big zero."
No Republican endorsement.

Clark County Recorder

✓ **Conway, Debbie, Democrat**

Conway is the incumbent and she's doing a great job.
No Republican endorsement.

Clark County Treasurer

No Republican endorsement.

Clark County Public Admin.

✓ **Cahill, John J., Democrat**

No Republican endorsement.

Constable, Boulder City Township

No one is qualified in this race.



Constable, Las Vegas Township

No Endorsement in this race.

Dist. Court Judge, Dept. 26

✓ **Sturman, Gloria, Nonpartisan**

Fair minded and will do a great job.

Dist. Court Judge, Dept. 28

✓ **Howard, Jack, Nonpartisan**

Dist. Court Judge, Dept. 30

✓ **Palm, Patricia "Trish", Nonpartisan**

Dist. Court Judge, Dept. 31

✓ **Dabney, Phil, Nonpartisan**

✓ **Kishner, Joanna, Nonpartisan**

✓ **Kunis, Josh, Nonpartisan**

You can't go wrong with any of the above three.

Dist. Court Judge, Family Div. B

✓ **Sanchez, Gloria, Nonpartisan**

Dist. Court Judge, Family Div. C

✓ **Pifer, Denise A., Nonpartisan**

The incumbent should only be in front of the bench for domestic violence. Let's go with Denise Pifer.

Dist. Court Judge, Family Div. E

No Endorsement in this race.

Dist. Court Judge, Family Div. F

No Endorsement in this race.

Dist. Court Judge, Family Div. S

No Endorsement in this race but don't vote for Tony Liker or Vincent Ochoa.

Dist. Court Judge, Family Div. T

✓ **Nathan, Gayle, Nonpartisan**

Regent, State University Dist. 3

✓ **Lange, Ken, Nonpartisan**

Regent, State University Dist. 7

No Endorsement in this race.

Regent, State University Dist. 12

✓ **Chesnut, Dwayne, Nonpartisan**

Regent, State University Dist. 13

No Endorsement in this race.

Trustee, Clark Cnty School Dist. D

✓ **Trujillo, Javier, Nonpartisan**

Trustee, Clark Cnty School Dist. F

✓ **Edwards, Carolyn, Nonpartisan**

Trustee, Clark Cnty School Dist. G

✓ **Dupalo, Martin Dean, Nonpartisan**

Clark County Sheriff

✓ **Bisch, Laurie P., Nonpartisan**

We're going with Bisch, who may be a long shot but she's good on our issues. If she's not successful, we encourage the incumbent to start reaching out to the LGBT community, especially in recruiting and public appearances.

Justice Of The Peace, Las Vegas Twنش Dept. 2

✓ **Sciscento, Joseph S., Nonpartisan**

Justice Of The Peace, Las Vegas Twنش Dept. 3

No Endorsement in this race.

Justice Of The Peace, Las Vegas Twنش Dept. 6

✓ **Kuzemka, Kristine, Nonpartisan**

No primary here but just a reminder to elect one of our own in the general.

Justice Of The Peace Las Vegas Twنش Dept. 13

✓ **Coumou, Frank, Nonpartisan**

Justice Of The Peace Las Vegas Twنش Dept. 14

No Endorsement in this race but don't vote for Bernie Zadrowski.

Justice Of The Peace, Searchlight Twنش

No endorsement in this race.

Celebrating pride



When you look back at the efforts and achievements of LGBT men and women over the years, there's every reason to be proud. Not just once a year, but every day. Wells Fargo takes great pride in the diversity of the communities we serve. That's why we continue to make financial contributions to LGBT nonprofits, provide services specific to the needs of our LGBT customers and foster a work environment that doesn't just accept differences, but celebrates them. Happy Pride. All year round.

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STEPHANIE ROSOL

The Center, HRC and HELP of Southern Nevada

Stephanie Rosol, vice president of human resources at Wynn Las Vegas and Encore, is smart, classy and constantly cultivating her professional and personal life. One way she does this is through community service.

"I finally figured out that I get way more out of service than the effort I put in," Rosol comments. "Community service is rewarding and it makes me feel connected to something bigger, more important and certainly more interesting. It's a way to give to people and communities that I identify with."

After Rosol figured this out about herself, community service became a major

part of her life, both on the job and in her free time.

On a professional level, Stephanie, along with a support team at Wynn, spearheaded the property's completion of the 2009 HRC Corporate Equality Index survey, where they received a 100 percent score in its first rating cycle—an exceptionally rare and exciting feat.

As an employee of Wynn Resorts, Rosol

comments, "The criteria on the survey wasn't difficult for [Wynn Resorts] because we've always had the best interests of this community in mind and we look forward to continuing down this path in the years to come. [And] as a lesbian, I was personally proud that I worked for a company that was able to do that and that I was part of earning that certification. But also, I was just happy for the rest of my brothers and sisters to have been able to bring that to life."

This is just one of many ways Rosol has served and helped the Las Vegas LGBT community. In her free time, she also serves on the Board of Directors for the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada. She is a member of the Human Right Campaign (HRC) and a regular AFAN walker. And outside of the LGBT community, Rosol works with HELP of Southern Nevada as a mentor for homeless youth and coaches members of TED.com, a non-profit devoted to "Ideas Worth Spreading."

There is no doubt that community service is important to Rosol. But along with serving for the good of the community, she also appreciates the benefits that she gets out of her good work.

"Being involved with The Center and HRC has exposed me to lovely people that I wouldn't have met otherwise," Rosol admits. "My participation has made Las Vegas seem more like my home. It has grown my network of resources and my sense of connection to the community."

But no matter how much she gets from her activism, she always has the end goal in sight.

"I remember when I was younger, [gay equality] was just so far away. And now in today's world, it's possible and it's becoming a way of doing business or just a way of being, opposed to this big secret scary thing," she says. "I think our community is unique in that we still have so much potential for growth and collaboration. My hope for us is that we figure out how to grow the support for our community rather than divide it. I am interested in having different conversations with each other and with our straight allies in order to create new possibilities."

With Rosol out there, along with all the other great LGBT supporters and servers, working toward the betterment of the Las Vegas LGBT community, this is a very real possibility. ●

BY KATHERINE FERNELIUS

Like many of the people profiled in this issue of QVegas, Peter O'Neill has spent a large majority of his time in Las Vegas fighting for the rights of our community. Though he has spent many years working in the healthcare industry, his activism starts with his status of board member for The Gay and Lesbian Community Center here in Las Vegas. "I was involved in an LGBT meals on wheels program in Chicago for a few years," he explains. "It was when we came to Las Vegas — it was probably circa 2000 — that I really became involved with the community."

"My active involvement in the community started with the formation of HRC," O'Neill continues. "I was one of the founding members of the Human Rights Campaign's Las Vegas Steering Committee. I served on the steering committee for about four years and then decided that I could not afford the time commitment, as I was also serving on a number of non-profit boards. These boards were not LGBT boards, but the boards such as Three Square, Nevada Public Radio, and the College of Southern Nevada Foundation. I'm on all of their boards. And at the time commitment was becoming difficult and I decided I would step down from HRC. In 2008, however, The Center chose me as their Man of the Year, and after that, in early of 2009, the Center leadership approached me and asked if I would be interested in serving on the Center board and I said yes," he concludes.

O'Neill has had a long and distinguished professional career as well, serving in executive positions within the healthcare industry and working hard since graduating from college in Chicago. Many times the good 'ole boy culture of the board room can be trying, and this is something O'Neill has experienced first-hand. "I came out in the mid-'80s, and at that time it was a bit more difficult, professionally," says O'Neill.

"Being out often meant that if there were perks to go around in the office, sometimes you were left out of that. I do know that there were a few issues that came up way back when with a couple of companies that I was working for that I knew that, uh, well I was told that the reason that I was not being, that I was not advancing as quickly in my career at that time was due to the fact that I was not married and I didn't have children. At that time that was all sort of acceptable, but of course that's not acceptable anymore," he finishes.

Of course, O'Neill's recent experiences in the workplace have been much more positive, and he firmly believes that the fight for equality is not a lost cause, even going so far as to saying that marriage can be a reality. "I think that it's really boiling down to a generational change," he explains. "People who were of the generation before me, tended to be decidedly anti-equality for LGBT. People of my generation were the ones who sort of matured into the concept that there should be equality for LGBT citizens of this country. The generation that's coming up after me, it's rarely an issue and I think as that generation gradually matures into a power base then I think that you will see, eventually, full equality for LGBT citizens."

Even marriage? O'Neill's response is unequivocal, "I think so, absolutely," he says without hesitation. "There will

come a time when the the electorate will swing probably more a little bit to the left where it comes to social issues," he says, "because the level of concern over granting full equality to all American citizens seems to be a generational thing."

Though he initially balked at the idea of moving to Vegas, saying: "Oh my gosh, I can't think of, I just cannot possibly think of living in a place like Las Vegas," O'Neill has since changed his mind. "Ten years later," he continues, "looking back on all this, it was the best move [my partner] Humberto and I could possibly have made. Not only did it work out for us professionally, but from a social perspective we have met so many friends." So here is to another fabulous ten years helping to play a crucial role in developing the LGBT community within southern Nevada. ●

BY WILLIAM BESSETTE



PETER O'NEILL

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Photo at right courtesy
of Christina Hernandez.

CHRISTINA HERNANDEZ

Sin Sity Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence

Christina Hernandez, otherwise known as Sister Lola Feminista Womyn of Justice from the Sin Sity Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, is a woman on a mission. She is a strong feminist woman who is advocating for personal rights and freedoms for all.

"I was born and raised in Vegas and I'm very proud of that. But I think a lot of people are under the impression that feminism isn't happening here," Hernandez says. In fact, feminism is strong and proud in Las Vegas and Hernandez is helping to keep it that way. "Sometimes people are afraid of the f-word," she says, "but we're trying to change that."

If you've seen the Sisters in action then you know that they bring a positive, high energy enthusiasm to fund-raising. The Sisters dress in full habits and extravagant face to help raise funds for people living with HIV and AIDS in the area. The funds go directly to the patients' medical needs. While Hernandez and the Sisters are raising funds, they're also spreading the word on safe sex and acceptance.

Although the Sisters are usually men, Hernandez joined in 2007 to help exemplify the spirit of inclusion that the Sisters represent. "I thought it would be fun and something that I can really believe in. It's really a huge commitment because your vows are for life, not like some places where after a year or two you move on from it," she explains. Being one of the only female Sisters in the Las Vegas area can be trying at times. "People are always trying to put me in a box based on gender; we all do the same work, so why should gender matter. And there are so many different parts to being a Sister, the one-on-one conversations with people and the energy that they bring. We get to face stigmatic guilt, and people know who we are and what we

do," Hernandez says.

The Sisters are open to helping anyone who is in need. Most of the patients that they are helping found the Sisters by word of mouth or referrals from clinics and The Gay and Lesbian Community Center. The Sisters have been around since the late 1970s when they were first founded in San Francisco.

When Hernandez isn't out with the Sisters, she's involved in so many other organizations that it's almost impossible to keep track of her. She volunteers at the Rape Crisis Center and the Women's Empowerment Network (WEN), she is a board member of the Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence, and she is the former vice president for the Nevada National Organization for Women (NOW). Hernandez also makes time for Spectrum, the gay and straight student alliance at UNLV. And to top it all off, she's appeared in local productions of *The Vagina Monologues* for the past three years as well.

Hernandez is clearly a very driven individual. All of the organizations that she's involved with do have some obstacles to overcome, though. The biggest hurdles that these helping organizations usually face are the result of funding. If they can obtain federal funding then it has to be allocated according to strict government guidelines. Whereas funding from the private sector is more readily accessible to individuals in need, it's also harder to come by. That's one more perk to the Sisters: "We raise the money and it all goes to helping clients," Hernandez says.

The Sisters have Oink Night at The Fun Hog Ranch on the third Saturday in every month to raise funds and have fun. They will be at the Las Vegas PRIDE Parade, and Hernandez's partner, Sybrina Bernabei (otherwise known as Sister Hope N' Grope of Safer Sinning), is co-chairing the Sisters' monthly bingo, to be held May 2 at Goodtimes. ●

BY ANN FEISTER



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NGRA

When did you get involved with volunteering for the community and why? I got involved with volunteering in the community first with Nevada Gay Rodeo Association (NGRA) in 1999. I had just met my current husband, David Murie, who was involved in the organization. I joined the organization in 2000 and volunteered as a performer at our fund-raisers (I sing, write songs and play guitar/piano) and then got on the rodeo planning committee) when I was recruited by Laura Scott to be the volunteer coordinator for the 2002 BigHorn Rodeo.

When did you get involved with volunteering for the community and why? Only about two years ago, because regretfully I've experienced the loss of everything, literally *everything*, and needed help just to survive. Luckily for me and the community, the St. Therese Center is there. They helped me pick myself back up and rise from the ashes. I was so moved by their generosity I felt the need to give back, and having nothing, the only thing I could give back was my time.

What were some of your personal goals when you got involved? Just to get out of the house at first. I was so sick that sometimes I could not work, so I was just lying in bed. However, it has turned into the greatest spiritual journey in my life. I'm getting a lot more out of it than I expected.

How do feel your efforts have made a difference? I'd like to think I've managed to affect a myriad of people, though I have to say it's pretty hard to keep up the pace needed so I just try and do as much as I can.

What is your favorite yearly event that takes place in the community and why? Well, the Circle of Roses with Golden Rainbow's Ribbon of Life show a close second. Nowhere else have I experienced the members of the medical

What were some of your personal goals when you got involved? I really had no personal goals when I joined; it was for fun. I got involved because I loved the country western music and lifestyle, enjoyed helping the worthy causes that NGRA supports, and the people I met in the organization were all very nice and "down to earth" so they were social benefits as well.

What growth have you seen in the community since you became involved? Well, the population in Clark County has grown quite a bit since I moved here in 1994, so along with that, so has our community. We have more varied people with more varied interests and as long as we all work together (and don't try to compete) in our events, we can continue to make great strides. Getting domestic partnership laws passed last year was huge in getting our relationships recognized.

If you were named president of one of our non-profits for a day, what changes would you make? I would separate the classes of membership. Most organizations in town have just a handful of people doing 90 percent of the heavy-lifting. I would give a membership rebate to anyone who attended board meetings, planned fund-raisers and who was genuinely active in the organization. And I would have a membership (with a higher fee) for those people who just wanted to be members but did not want to be involved in the business of the organization. That way you would know up front how many active members you have. ●



**DAVID
BROWN**

St. Therese Center

community; members of the HIV+ community; members of the gay, lesbian, bi and transgender community; members of the Catholic community; news and entertainment community. There is also the wonderful community of the St. Therese Center HIV Outreach. ●

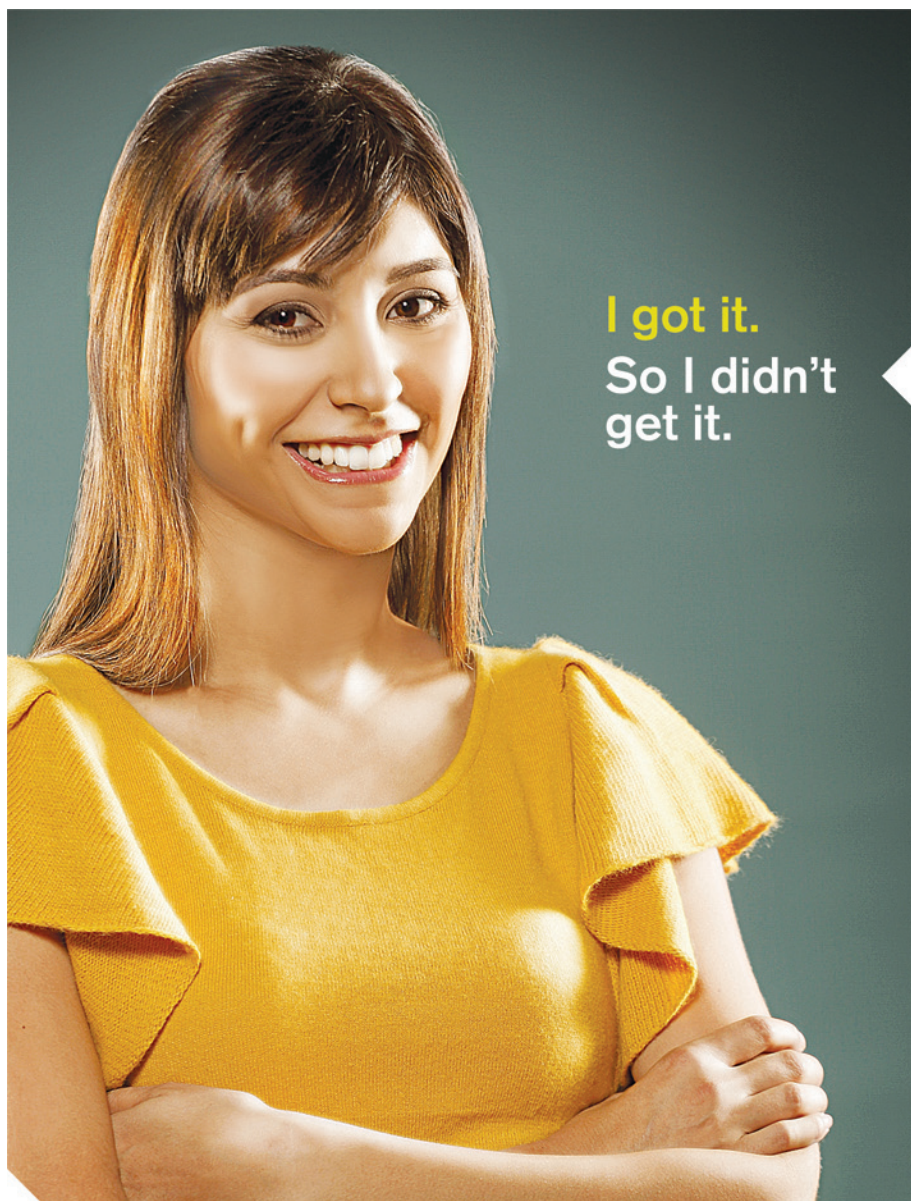


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Photo by Earl Faneuf.

BRANDON JOHNSON

Miss Las Vegas PRIDE 2010

When did you get involved with volunteering for the community and why? I began volunteering shortly after I moved to Las Vegas in September 2001, mostly because I was working at Gipsy at the time. When I became entertainment director in August 2002, I started planning and organizing the club's involvement in various charity events and what would be donated to whom.

What were some of your personal goals when you got involved? I wanted to be a part of what was going on in my new home state. Being from Hawaii, I had already participated there, so it was time to do the same in Las Vegas: raise money and meet the people.

What growth have you seen in the community since you became involved? The younger generation is more into it. The Las Vegas PRIDE Festival has become a much larger event in an incredible venue, as well as the Las Vegas community in general has become a lot more accepting of the LGBT community. We have a domestic partnership law, which I never thought I would ever see. And despite a bad economic downturn, organizations like AFAN, Golden Rainbow, the Sin City Sisters, etc., continue to be here for this community, plugging away to raise money and awareness.

What is your favorite yearly event that takes place in the Las Vegas community and why? AFAN's Black and White Party, a fun and glamorous event that everyone gets dressed up to go to and have a blast. I missed it last year. I will *not* be missing it this year. Golden Rainbow's Ribbon of Life is next. I love to see all my friends entertain.

Do you think volunteering is a thankless job? Absolutely not. Rewards to people who volunteer come in many different forms. From a pat on the back, to the feeling doing something to make a difference gives someone, it's all relative. If you are doing something for someone to get recognition then your heart is in the wrong place. ●



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There are benchmark events in life that sends us hurling in one direction or another. For Eduardo Cordova that moment came when he moved from Mexico City to Arizona.

Coming from a conservative family, he felt isolated from who he truly was. When he made his move to Arizona, he did so with the backing of his parents, to pursue a college career.

Cordova pursued a college career, receiving his degree in engineering.

"My passion was with promotions, but I wanted to finish [the degree] I started," Cordova said.



EDUARDO CORDOVA

Party Promoter

Ironically, the experience that would fulfill his parents' wishes is the same experience that made coming out that much easier. Even though the college degree that Cordova earned was not what he wanted, the experience was not lost on him.

Being exposed to a diverse student population opened his eyes to the world around him. The feeling of isolation dissipated as he realized he was not alone, but very much apart of a community.

"When I went to college, I realized that there were others out there like me," Cordova says. "I finally felt like I wasn't different for being gay."

Now shedding a shell of any expectations, and becoming what he really is, an LGBT success story. After coming out, Cordova came into his own. This newfound confidence opened doors for him.

In 2005, he landed an internship in Los Angeles that introduced him to nightclub promotions. A business opportunity moved Cordova to Las Vegas. Although it did not pan out, everything fell into place. He made connections throughout the Vegas club scene.

His first event was at Tao, working in tandem with the Light Group. He saw the inner workings of event promotion and it sparked passion in him. He wanted to combine a mainstream location that catered to the LGBT community.

Making this idea a reality proved to be an uphill battle. It took more than two years to have a Strip property agree to host an LGBT event, nervous that the event might label their company as a gay establishment. Many of these businesses were apprehensive about being connected with the community, saying it would be bad for business.

It was apparent that the Las Vegas LGBT nightclub offerings were behind other cities, and Cordova wanted to remedy this disconnect in Las Vegas.

"I wanted to prove that having LGBT nights at gorgeous Strip establishments would not fail," he says. "Being gay, I wanted gay nightlife in the heart of the city."

Cordova's first big success was opening Closet Sundays at Cathouse inside the Luxor Hotel and Casino in October 2008. "I am always looking for things that are good for the community, and I do things people say I cannot do." When the lines grew at Closet Sundays at Cathouse, the Light Group approached Cordova with an offer to move Closet Sundays to Revolution Lounge at the Mirage.

"We were already at a great establishment, but when the Light Group offered to move Closet Sundays to Revolution, I knew it was a success," he said. "People were finally noticing that the LGBT community wasn't bad for business."

The word-of-mouth success of Closet Sundays at Revolution Lounge led to other offerings for Cordova. Heaven at Bare Pool and Lounge on Saturday nights is the newest LGBT-centric party he began. "The best part about these parties is that anyone can come—gay and straight alike."

Cordova says these parties are great for the LGBT community because it proves that they can be in the center of the action, in upscale Strip locations. "We don't have to be in a corner. We can be in the middle of the Strip and be proud to be gay." ●

BY SHANE COLLINS



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JON SPARER

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center

Jon Sparer is definitely a native. He has clocked over thirty years in Las Vegas and has loved every minute of it, though he has seen this city grow and evolve in a way that only native Las Vegans can appreciate.

"It makes you feel bad," Sparer says, "because the projects you tore down are all these nice, small, old places that were built in the '50s, '60s and '70s... It was a whole different Las Vegas when I moved here. The Howard Hughes Corporation owned five casinos on the Strip. The Strip used to be a short-cut because it was just acres and acres of empty land."

Fortunately, Sparer showed up at just the right time, since he is an architect. "For being an architect," he explains, "it's been a fantastic place to be. And just having extraordinary opportunities because I've worked on just about every major hotel/casino here on the Strip."

If anyone listens to National Public Radio (NPR) here in southern Nevada, you have most likely heard the name of

John Klai. He is one of the principle architects at Klai Juba Architects, a big supporter of NPR, and you will often hear them mention his name on air. Interestingly, he is also Sparer's life partner. This does sound like it must make for some interesting times at home.

"We have competed head to head, our two companies," Sparer says. "What is funny is that there are times when you'll be sitting there at the kitchen counter drawing and one of us will look over the shoulder of the other and say, 'Oh really, we were working on that a couple months ago.' Other than that we do respect each others sensitivities, offices and projects."

Sparer has been involved with the gay community in this town for a long time and currently serves on the board

of The Gay and Lesbian Community Center. He has long supported issues vital to our community, but also gets involved with the community as a whole, as he was on the board of the Lied Discovery Museum for years. "The more you give back," he begins, "the more you get."

"I've learned that from John and it's the absolute truth. We love giving back financially, emotionally and with our time and energy. We find that we can spur a lot of other people to do the same because I think a lot of people have just never been asked. A lot of people want to do stuff but don't know how to do it. We love being a catalyst," he concludes.

Though he has been in Vegas for some time and has a partner who is from North Dakota, Sparer has been fortunate in how he has been received both personally and in his professional life. "Both our families are incredibly supportive," he says. "I think my family loves him more than they love me I swear at times."

"He's from North Dakota and he's very involved back in North Dakota as well," Sparer begins. "The first time I went back there I was just shocked because, you know, I'm from New York. I never thought I'd know anybody from North Dakota let alone go to North Dakota. The first time we went back to this little town of less than 200 people. Here I have all these misconceptions in my head of what a small Midwest town is gonna feel about these gay boys coming home. They just adopted me so quick, all his fraternity brothers. We're friends, we travel together and it is amazing."

Though he may be a bit high profile here in Las Vegas, Sparer is still a regular guy, and it is through these people, and everyone else, every friend and family member, that the LGBT community will gain lasting rights. "People can be a lot more open," he says. "I really believe that the more gay people are out there living their lives like any other normal person, that's what's changing the mentality of the world, certainly in America, that we're not hiding anymore and we're just like everybody else." ●

BY WILLIAM BESSETTE

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**CHRIS
MILLER**

LVGA³, Stonewall Dems, GLSEN

When did you get involved with volunteering for the community and why? I have always been a cheerleader but really got involved a couple of years ago. I was at a start-up meeting for LVGA³ and decided it was time to quit sitting on the sidelines and time to show some community support. Who would have known then that I would become the founding president of LVGA³.

What were some of your personal goals when you got involved? Since we do not have a 'gayborhood' here in Las Vegas, and there were few social activities that were not about a bar, nightclub or ultra-lounge, I wanted to help provide a sense of community outside of the norm. I was also interested in the opportunity to portray

the LGBTQ community of Las Vegas as a strong part of the everyday fabric of the city and state.

How do you feel your efforts have made a difference? As the first president of LVGA³, I was part of a team that helped to start and organize a real gay softball league. Thanks to the help of another of your honorees, Larry O'Halloran, LVGA³ Softball is now a nationally sanctioned gay softball league. Before I left, we were also able to form a volleyball league and a basketball team. I am proud of the athletics division as these three sports are all thriving parts of the community. As a member of the steering committee of last year's National Equality March in Washington, Nevada was represented at the highest levels of a grass roots march on our nation's capitol which drew over 250,000 people on a budget of under \$200,000. Our Nevada delegation organized a meeting with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid in his Capitol Hill office where we introduced him to march leaders and organizers Cleve Jones, Robin McGehee, Lt. Dan Choi and Kip Williams. While there, we also met with Congresswomen Shelley Berkley and Dina Titus. I learned from that experience that individuals, not just lobbyists, can make a huge difference.

What organizations are you currently involved with? I am a proud member of the board of Stonewall Democrats Southern Nevada, a Steering committee member of GLSEN and I was recently appointed to the Platform Committee of the Clark County Democratic Party.

What is your favorite yearly event that takes place in the Las Vegas community and why? Every event, no matter the size, is important to this community. They are all my favorites! ●

When did you get involved with volunteering for the community and why? I started out with Winged Dragon Society in 2008 and then was asked to run for a pageant and won two in a row: Miss Big Bold and Beautiful and Queen of the Desert 2008.

What were some of your personal goals when you got involved? To meet others within the community and a way to express myself through drag performance.

What growth have you seen in the community since you became involved? Since I became involved, my perception of the Las Vegas Community has been positive and inclusive. I am very proud to be a member and reigning head of state for the Las Vegas Imperial Court. My goal for my reign and for the community is to continue fund raising efforts to benefit organizations that we contribute to. ●



**BOOTSY
CARMICHAEL**

Empress XII of Las Vegas



PETER JOBSON

Blown-Out Productions

When did you get involved with volunteering for the community and why? When I started my company, Blown-Out Productions, two years ago. Working within the gay service industry for many years, I felt the desire to give something back and pay forward.

What were some of your personal goals when you got involved? To learn more about the fund-raising aspect of volunteering and making a difference in helping bring the community closer together.

What growth have you seen in the community since you became involved? I feel that more people and businesses are stepping up to make a difference and are becoming more involved.

How do you feel your efforts have made a difference? By staying neutral I've been able to provide a platform for communication between individuals and organizations whose relationships have been possibly strained in the past.

What organizations are you currently involved with? My company has provided services to Community Counseling Center's Threads of the Community fund-raiser and fashion gala, as well as providing the decor for the Sin City Sisters' Red Dress Affair this past year.

What is your favorite yearly event that takes place in the Las Vegas community and why? It would have to be Community Counseling Center's Threads of the Community because it's a cause that is close to my heart for work that the Center does, as well as being given the freedom to be extremely creative without restriction. I also love the fact that the funds that are raised directly help individuals in our community. ●

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**JIM
DAVIS**

Domestic Partnership Expert

Jim Davis has been a member of the Las Vegas community for over 20 years. During this time, he has seen numerous changes within the Las Vegas LGBT community and is excited about the community's future.

Davis remembers watching individuals duck

for cover when news cameras showed up at Pride events as recently as the early '90s, and is proud to now see members of our LGBT community express themselves with dignity and honor. He has been an outspoken advocate for the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell, providing a unique perspective sought by local media outlets as a result of his 20 years of service in the Air Force and Air Force Reserves.

Davis now is an active member of the Clark County's family law community. This past summer, once Senator David Parks successfully sponsored the passage of the Nevada's Domestic Partnership Act, Davis quickly identified the need to inform the LGBT community regarding their rights and responsibilities if they were to enter a domestic partnership. In conjunction with the The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada and the ACLU, he conducted close to 30 open-forums at The Center. Davis is a recognized expert in domestic partnership law, having been asked and having spoken at events sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign, Wells Fargo, We Are Family, and the Nevada State Bar's Annual Family Law Conference.

An accomplished speaker and an associate at Kunin & Carman, Davis has appeared on KNPR's "State of Nevada" and continues to conduct interviews with local and national media outlets regarding both domestic partnership law and Don't Ask Don't Tell.

Davis is a proud member of southern Nevada's LGBT community, who continues to advocate for its members with pride and honor. ●

When did you get involved with volunteering for the community and why?

Back in 1995, I started to help out the Gay and Lesbian Community Center. I was part of the 20-something group. I wanted to raise money for The Center, so I started our first gay day at the Wet 'n Wild water park.

What were some of your personal goals when you got involved?

Making PRIDE profitable so PRIDE can help pay some of bills of The Center.

What growth have you seen in the community since you became involved?

I've seen The Center move to a bigger office, PRIDE beverage sales making over \$60,000 in revenue, and a crosswalk being added on Paradise in the Fruit Loop.

How do you feel your efforts have made a difference?

I have made PRIDE beverage sales profitable, so they can donate more to the community; have gotten bar owners to work with each other on community events; and helped put a crosswalk in the Fruit Loop to save lives. ●



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A.J. O'REILLY

Come Out Educational Conference

At first glance, A.J. O'Reilly seems like your typical fit and attractive 26-year old gay man. Yes, he subscribes to the philosophy that says, "I go to the gym five times a week because it's the law." Among his other interests are hanging out at Town Square, drinking good red wine, and feeding on lots of energy with a lot of people. However, I am here to tell you that's barely scratching the surface of this dynamic young man, who is sure to be a name to know in the future.

O'Reilly is a product of the Clark County School District. As a teenager in high school, the prospect of coming out was terrifying to him — as it can be, and was, to most of us. Even as we see more and more LGBT youth coming out these days, O'Reilly still wants all kids to feel safe in their coming out process and wants them to know that there is nothing

wrong with who they are. Also, he wants them to know that there is a community out there that fully supports them. It was this dedication that lit a fire and passion to get involved.

I had the honor of being asked to assist with stage managing the 2009 NCOD Festival. It was there that an anxious and very excited O'Reilly came up to me and

asked for a few minutes of stage time to talk about his cause — the Come Out Educational Conference. I had no idea what it was and he briefly told me. I was on board. That day, he got a few people to sign up. Come Out was held on the UNLV Campus last November. The purpose of this educational conference was to work with and educate educational professionals in the Clark County School District in creating a safe place and safe educational environment for LGBT youth in our schools, and to develop leadership skills in LGBT youth so as to encourage more involvement in the gay community. Come Out had 200 attendees, educators, and social workers, as well as some community leaders, both gay and straight, who work with kids on a regular basis such as Street Teens and Safe Nest.

O'Reilly was very happy with the results and is very grateful to UNLV, who was very instrumental with pulling off the event. He says, "2009's Come Out Educational Conference was the first time in Nevada's history to have an event focused on LGBT issues." One of the pilot program's main focuses is outreach. He hopes to let the Las Vegas community know that this event can really affect and change the lives of so many of our LGBT youth.

When asked how he feels for being recognized as one of *QVegas'* 32 People with Pride, O'Reilly humbly replies, "It is a big honor, but an event like Come Out was something that needed to happen. I just found myself in a position to do so. But, there are so many other people that deserve to be recognized for really fighting for our community. Like Mel Goodwin at The Center and Chris Miller of Stonewall Democrats. But, also all the teachers in CCSD who do what they can every day to work with our youth and inspire them to make the changes so one day we won't need conferences like Come Out where future communities will be able to truly live in equality." He goes on to add, "no matter *who* you are, being a Person with Pride means you are willing to yell, 'This is me! This is who I am!' Because there will never be change unless we first dream it." ●

BY JOEL CASTILLO

When did you get involved with volunteering for the community and why? Service and volunteering have always been a part of my life. Coming to Las Vegas in 2007 I was immediately drawn to PRIDE both for being well known and well grounded in the community. In joining PRIDE, I sought to break stereotypes and promote inclusiveness for the LGBT community in Las Vegas. Working with PRIDE has enabled me to fulfill these goals and to see such progress every day.

What were some of your personal goals when you got involved? My personal goals were simple: expand and gain knowledge about the LGBT community, meet its members and leaders, spread the equality message, and share my enthusiasm, resources and insight with others.

What growth have you seen in the community since you became involved? Since my involvement in 2008, I have seen an increased awareness of the LGBT community and its expanding incorporation with the larger Las Vegas community. This is easily seen in the PRIDE festival's increased growth in attendance and community involvement.

How do you feel your efforts have made a difference? Like any volunteer of an organization, one hopes that their efforts, big or small, make an impact on the people served. Even if my efforts only inspire one person or increase the confidence in a few, I will have considered my time well spent and just as rewarding.

Do you think volunteering is a thankless job? Volunteering is never a thankless job. Regardless of a volunteer's motivation, both the organization and the individual come out gratified and rewarded. For example, when I plan the entertainment line-up for PRIDE, my gratification is watching the audience enjoy the show. Now regardless of its reaction, you will learn something from it, so the end result is personal growth and diversification.



STEVE ERICS

Las Vegas PRIDE



JOEL CASTILLO

NGRA and Men of Charlie's

Joel Castillo first got involved in the Las Vegas LGBT community while as a student at UNLV. In 1993, he was encouraged by brothers of Delta Lambda Phi Fraternity to run as a contestant in the first Las Vegas Gay Pride Pageant. Castillo did and went on to become Miss Vegas Gay Pride 1993, thus beginning his foray into community involvement. Since then, Castillo has been involved in many different community organizations such as The Center and Southern Nevada Association of Pride, Inc.

Upon returning from a performance stint in Florida, Castillo got involved with Human Rights Campaign's Annual Gala Dinner, became one of the Men of Charlie's, and joined the Nevada Gay Rodeo Association. Joel also lends time to other events like NCOD and PRIDE when his busy schedule allows.

Castillo got involved for what he feels is the reason most of us get involved: to make it easier for the next generations. "I think back to the Stonewall Riots and am

appreciative of what those pioneers did for my generation. I am not saying my generation is responsible, but am hopeful that our work has paved the way for so much more positive visibility in the media, politics for equality, and younger kids feeling safe to be themselves and come out. In fact, the other day I saw the billboards along I-15 for PRIDE and *Naked Boys Singing*. I remember how almost 'hide-in-the-bushes' PRIDE used to be in 1993 at Sunset Park, and now we have a parade and billboards out and proud! We've come a long way, but we are far from done."

Castillo feels that being selected as one of *QVegas'* 32 People with Pride is such an honor. "I am humbled and in awe of the caliber people I am in company with! I don't volunteer for the thanks, fame, or accolades. If I did, I would have quit a long time ago. I do it because I try to remember this as my guiding principle — 'Be the change you want to see,' because if I want to see change, I need to be willing to do my part to help that change along." ●



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Photo courtesy of Cynthia Hall.

CYNTHA
HALL

Betty's Outrageous Adventures

When did you get involved with volunteering for the community and why? I started volunteering in Vegas about six years ago when Candice Nichols at The Center reminded me how important it is for each of us to give back to our community. I had been very involved back in the late '70s in California, back in the Anita Bryant days... but after moving back to Vegas in the '80s I lost touch with that side of the community until Candice came along and give me a swift kick in the butt.

When did you get involved with volunteering for the community and why? I got involved with the community approximately three years ago, when I became a facilitator at The Center for their L-Group meetings that are held on Friday nights. I had just moved here from northern CA and was just coming out and didn't know anyone. I was looking for a way to get involved with the community and meet other women, at the same time.

What were some of your personal goals when you got involved? One of the most important goals for me was to be able to relate to other women who were baby boomers and just coming out and to be able to discuss my concerns, about family and friends coming to understand and accept my life style. Another goal was to become even more involved in the community.

How do you feel your efforts have made a difference? I see the same women returning to my L-Group meetings. I see women at different events, because I've made them aware of functions that they are interested in attending. I direct women to the Betty's Web site and later log in and find that they have joined.

What were some of your personal goals when you got involved? Well my own personal goals were to get the women of Las Vegas more involved in the community and to help spread the word about how much there really was happening in town for women. This came after years and years of hearing that there was never anything going on for women. So about five years ago I started The L Group Newsletter to spread the word. It started out as a one-page Internet newsletter going out to about 30 or so women, today it's usually about 15 pages and hits nearly 1,000 lesbian households weekly. I also became involved in Betty's Outrageous Adventures, Vegas' largest and oldest lesbian social group, about five years ago, first as a board member and, for the last four years, as president. Again my goal was to spread the word about our lesbian community. When I began with The Bettys we had about 500 women on our monthly mailing list now we have just passed the 1600 mark!

What growth have you seen in the community since you became involved? I've seen a tremendous amount of growth in our community. I was actually raised here in Vegas; back when I was a kid you *never* heard anything about gays. I think the first Pride event I went to, in the late '80s, was at Sunset Park. There was about 100 people that came by throughout the day. We brought coolers, had picnics and played volleyball... it was a beginning! Every year since has shown an enormous amount of growth, I believe we now have around 10,000 at our Pride event. And nearly everyday on my way to work I can look around in traffic and see a rainbow or HRC equality symbol sticker on somebody's car. Now that's a sure sign of growth! ●



Photo by Cynthia Hall.

CINDY
TORRES

The L-Group and Bettys

What is your favorite yearly event that takes place in the Las Vegas community and why? PRIDE, because all facets of the community participate together: lesbians, gay men, transgenders, transsexuals and bisexuals. ●

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**RON
QUINN**

Human Rights Campaign

Ron Quinn first volunteered in developing a community outreach program when he was 23 for his local LGBT community in southern California. This LGBT program reached out to other organizations to support in food drives, toy drives, and youth support. Today as volunteer co-chair for the Las Vegas chapter of Human Rights Campaign (HRC), he is active in growing the volunteer program and activities. Quinn envisions volunteer support of all community partners and other organizations as part of the new HRC community campaign. "I believe that if we reach out to our neighbors, work together,

support each other side by side, straight allies will emerge and realize the LGBT community are no different and deserve equal rights," he says. Quinn hopes they will remember this when evaluating those running for office, or when ballot initiatives appear.

Since attending the very first HRC Gala in September 2006, Quinn was engaged. He was inspired to see over 700 members of the LGBT community, and straight allies, come together for an evening in such a venue to celebrate. Celebrate, and demand equality. He met people he had never seen before, many of whom are now his closest friends. Though he hadn't considered himself an activist, he wanted to be involved in the movement for equality. The message was clear: equality can't wait. Though he looks forward to the annual Gala, he also loves the HRC Family Picnic, as it brings the community together in a casual, neighborly atmosphere.

He remembers going to Pride in 1991 when he and his partner first moved to Las Vegas. Nearly twenty years later, he loves attending and sees how Pride is evolving, and is proud to see the community develop a stronger partnership while coming together.

Quinn truly loves working with volunteers, recruiting volunteers, and is inspired by them. "I am often told of new friendships and relationships formed, just because they came to volunteer at an event one day. It is rewarding. I tell everyone regardless of how you participate, your presence at these events and in the community makes a difference." ●

Edward D Padilla began volunteering and fund-raising in 1985 when his good friend passed away from AIDS. Since then, his theatre scripts, novels and fund-raisers accumulated over \$750,000 for various LGBT organizations internationally as well as HIV/AIDS research. To this day, any of his theatre scripts have a royalty clause where the opening night production must benefit an LGBT or HIV/AIDS organization.

After arguing with his publisher over his novel *Minor Deities*, Padilla began bootlegging his own work and donating half of these royalties for HIV/AIDS research. You can find him at www.facebook.com/minor.deities.

Readers of *Minor Deities* have written to Padilla and thanked him for a story they could share with friends and family to help them understand the gay community and the adversity they face. With the growing success of his novel, the accomplishments of his theatre scripts are also increasing.

His script, *The Vampire, The Virgin & The Very Horny Night* opened the Onyx Theatre a few years ago, but, with the newness of the theatre, his fundraising for The Gay and Lesbian Com-



**EDWARD
PADILLA**

Author and Playwright

munity Center fell a little short of expectations. If he receives enough support (and finds a venue) he is willing to try again! ●



LEO MURRIETA

Political Activist

"I am an openly Gay, LGBTQ activist, youth leader, agitator, community supporter, blogger, Tweeter, instigator, writer, family-oriented, Mexican-American man and I'm proud to be all of the above," says Leo Murrieta, now Political Director for Lieutenant Governor candidate Paul Murad.

When did you get involved with the community and why? I have always been actively involved with my church, especially in youth ministry. When I came out, I saw a need within the church to share God's love with people who aren't often told that God loves them or that there's a place for them in their Church.

What were some of your personal goals when you got involved? To let people know that they are loved by God and that they are welcome to be at the table of the Lord.

How do you feel your efforts have made a difference? I have seen others wanting to get involved, participate and make a difference themselves. If I have inspired just one person to embrace God and their faith again, then I've done my job. We have opened the eyes of many Catholics in the pews to who we are and changed some hearts and minds. We couldn't have done that had we separated ourselves from the Church. It's always easier to make changes from the inside than from the outside.

What organizations are you currently involved with? Imago Dei: Gay/Lesbian Catholic Ministries. Personally, I have just started getting involved with Right Pride; it's separate from Imago Dei, which is not a political or activist group.

Murrieta became actively involved with the LGBTQ community after returning from the National Equality March in Washington D.C. in October 2009. "I'd never felt such a deep-rooted sense of community like I felt in D.C. I wanted to try and bring some of that home with me. That's why I got involved in the community," he says. He immediately became involved with the Democratic Party in Southern Nevada, volunteering with groups like the Black Caucus, the Stonewall Democrats, the Latino Democratic Caucus, and later the Asian Democratic Caucus.

Murrieta dedicated his time and efforts to these organizations because of his belief that, "If they know us, they can't hate us. Angela Harvey said that, and I know that it has to be true." He now serves on the board of those organizations working on Latino/LGBTQ outreach, youth outreach, community outreach, and still has time to focus on Paul Murad's campaign.

"I want to thank all my dear friends that keep me sane, because your support helps me keep going," Murrieta says.

"I'm humbled by this honor, because I'm only doing what I feel is right. I know that LGBTQ equality is our right, and I'd be doing what I'm doing even if no one ever said thank you. For that reason, I am honored to be named one of the 32 People With Pride." ●



CHARLES O'NEILL

Imago Dei

If you were named the president of one of our non-profits for one day, what changes would you make? Try to get the community to open its eyes to the actual diversity there is among us. We talk a lot about diversity and inclusion but as soon as someone comes among us who looks, acts or thinks differently than we say they should, we figuratively shut the door in their face. ●

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Photo courtesy of Ernie Yuen.

**ERNIE
YUEN**

Las Vegas PRIDE

When did you get involved with volunteering for the community and why? I got involved with volunteering and helping my community almost 31 years ago back in Hawaii when I was in high school starting with the Ronald McDonald House. I got involved with helping with Pride back in Hawaii almost 22 years ago, and I have not stopped yet!

What growth have you seen in the community since you became involved? This is my third term with SNAPI and every year I said "this is my last year," but all we as a board have accomplished keeps me wanting to come back and do more. Pride just keeps on getting bigger and better every year. People may disagree with that statement; I encourage those people to stop talking and get involved — that's what got me involved. Like my mom always told me, be part of the solution not part of the problem!

How do you feel your efforts have made a difference? Everyone on our board brings their own talents to the board. It is a mixed board of professional men and women. What I think I bring to the table is experience and a great attitude to teach new board members how to go from good board members to amazing board members. As a manager in my professional life, I always tell myself you are only as strong as the weakest person on your team; therefore, I am all about team building and helping my team members learn and grow. ●

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Three years ago, the LGBT community was in a much different place than it is today. It was smaller, a little less developed and a little less cohesive. But with the help of many, the community has changed for the better. One person who has been instrumental in these changes is Nell Gelhaus.

Three years ago, after recently moving to Las Vegas, Gelhaus tried finding opportunities to help her new community, but, "There really wasn't much [community]," she remarks. "I really had to seek it out." Finally, she found an opportunity. She volunteered to help the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) with their annual gala.

Since then, Gelhaus has made strides to continually serve the community in both her career and her personal life.

Gelhaus works in corporate marketing for Harrah's Entertainment and is the co-chair of communication and marketing of EQUAL, Harrah's LGBT business resource group. She is an active member of HRC and recently served on the steering committee and sat on the Committee of Diversity and on the Faith and Religion Committee.

"I come from a really small town in Wisconsin, and there was no community there," she says. Coming out and being open with herself, her co-workers and her peers wasn't something she



NELL GELHAUS

EQUAL at Harrah's Entertainment

felt comfortable doing back home, so she waited to come out until after college. "Having been closeted for so long and forced to keep everything that I felt inside was horrible. But then, I moved out here, and I feel like it's okay to be open. Even though Las Vegas is pretty conservative, it's still so much better than Wisconsin, and I think it's because of the community."

Over the years, Gelhaus has been involved in many community activities but among the most memorable for her was the religious forum, organized by the HRC Faith and Religion Committee, where different religious leaders in Las Vegas got together at the Wilfred Moore Abundant Peace Church to talk about the religious issues that surround the gay and lesbian community. "It was really nice that everyone was able to come together in a safe place where differing opinions could be heard and discussed."

Another event that stays close to Gelhaus' heart was the day legal rights were given to domestic partners. "Knowing the work every organization put into seeing [the domestic partner-

ship bill] pass and knowing that friends of mine are affected on a real person level, makes me feel proud to be apart of this community and makes me feel like the work we are all doing is making a difference," she says.

Because Gelhaus grew up where she couldn't be herself and didn't have a community to support her, she understands how important having that support system is. She also understands just how much it takes to help grow a community.

"It's so important that everyone, especially younger people, get involved in the community. In order for this to continue growing and thriving, we need people to carry it all the way," she says. "This community has allowed me to be who I am and be proud of who I am in my personal life and my professional life. Being honored within the community gives me the motivation to keep doing it and helps me know that although what I do as an individual is not that big, as a whole it is important, and we can make a difference." ●

BY KATHERINE FERNELIUS



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MALCOLM AHLO

Anti-smoking initiative, CRUSH

When Malcolm Ahlo learned that Celine Dion was moving to Las Vegas to perform at Caesars Palace about nine years ago, the Hawaii native, attending school in Oregon at the time, packed up and moved. A diehard Dion fan, Ahlo has since made his own lasting impact among the Las Vegas LGBT community.

Ahlo is the creator of CRUSH, a lifestyle movement to promote smokefree living in the LGBT community. "We help prevent smoking, and if you already smoke, we provide you the resources to help you quit," he explains. "We understand smoking is an addiction, and CRUSH is not against smokers. We are

here to help them."

When CRUSH began its initiatives in 2005, 63 percent of the LGBT community smoked making it one of the highest in Las Vegas. In comparison only 26 percent of heterosexuals smoked in Las Vegas at the same time. In addition, the CRUSH Web site states the LGBT

community is 50 to 200 percent more likely to become addicted to smoking. Since the inception of CRUSH, the smoking rate in the LGBT community dropped to 47 percent, a statistic Ahlo proudly believes is a direct result of CRUSH.

"Evidence shows that we are helping more people quit smoking, and less are picking up the habit," Ahlo says. "According to the Center for Disease Control, studies show that smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke kills more people than illegal drug use, alcohol use, car accidents, hate crimes, suicides, murders or HIV/AIDS combined." He explained that these are all equally important issues, but the smoking/tobacco issue should be viewed as a major health problem facing our LGBT community.

CRUSH was a major sponsor of Las Vegas PRIDE 2010 and was influential in Southern Nevada Association of Pride, Inc.'s decision to develop a tobacco-free policy. "It is important to make PRIDE as family oriented as possible," Ahlo says.

CRUSH is a huge supporter of the community as it has partnered with nearly every LGBT organization in the valley including Aid for AIDS of Nevada, whom CRUSH supported during the AFAN AIDS Walk on April 25 by walking as Team CRUSH. Ahlo also works with other LGBT organizations to co-sponsor smokefree events.

Ahlo said that trying to help people quit smoking or preventing people from starting in our community means so much to him because he has been personally affected by the toll of tobacco. "Recently losing my grandpa from smoking reminds me that the work I am doing is important," Ahlo expresses. "We all have been affected by smoking or secondhand smoke — it becomes a personal fight."

"We aren't going away anytime soon. We are going to continue educating the community on smokefree lifestyles and providing resources on how to quit," Ahlo says. "These impacts on the community have been clearly felt since CRUSH began its work."

Ahlo lives with his partner Lonnie, his two Great Danes, Kuya and Jasper, and his turtle Tortuga. ●

BY SHANE COLLINS

When did you get involved with volunteering for the community and why?

I first became involved in donating my time to the LGBT community over two years ago through Harrah's Entertainment's business resource group, EQUAL. I wanted to make a significant impact on the internal and external culture for the LGBT community for all of Harrah's Entertainment.

What were some of your personal goals when you got involved?

My personal goal for becoming involved was raising as much awareness of equal rights as possible for my community and everyone that affects it. I wanted to positively educate each individual and create a great awareness of our community to everyone who may have mixed feelings.

What growth have you seen in the community since you became involved?

I have seen amazing growth in the community since I first began to volunteer. The domestic partnership bill (SB 283), for example, is the largest growth I believe our community has seen.

How do you feel your efforts have made a difference? I know that one person can make a difference. Constant perseverance to maintain the highest amount of integrity and virtue in

what they believe in can make a significant impact on how many others will choose to live their lives. This is why I believe I wake up each day not being just an advocate but an activist for my beliefs.

If you were named president of one of our non-profits for a day, what changes would you make? I would push for a stronger and unified force of communication for LGBT youth and the underprivileged. The next generation who will be leading the community in advocacy and activism are our youth, and we must support and enable them to do so by providing resources and safe places to do so. ●



JOSEPH KAPLAN

EQUAL at Harrah's Entertainment



LARRY O'HALLORAN

Las Vegas Gay Athletics, Arts and Activities

When did you get involved with volunteering for the community and why?

I learned about LVGA³ Athletics in 2008 while attending a meeting on the formation of LVGA³. I was interested in playing volleyball and they were seeking people to be on the athletic board. The interest in softball was primary for the board, as they were interested in fielding a team for the 2009 Sin City Shoot Out, a softball tournament hosted by the Los Angeles softball league and held here in Las Vegas, yet there was no representation by any local team. I took on the task. It has been fast-paced ever since.

What were some of your personal goals when you got involved?

One personal goal is to offer an opportunity for the LGBT community to discover its sporting self, filling a void that many have talked about but had yet to take root. Secondly, make Las Vegas a member of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association (NAGAAA), allowing for members of our community to participate

in regional softball tournaments held around the country and in the Gay Softball World Series.

What growth have you seen in the community since you became involved?

Beginning with the three of us, Terry Hernandez, Chris Miller and myself standing on the fields on a cold October morning in 2008 and wondering if anyone would show up and if we could actually make this happen. The commitment was made then to be there again the next weekend. Since that time we now have seven softball teams, a volleyball league, a basketball team, and soon to offer golf, which are new to the already existing bowling and tennis leagues. Sports now offers opportunity to over 300 members of the community.

Do you think volunteering is a thankless job?

Volunteering is generally not. It's the leadership role that is. There is always someone who claims they could do better, but when asked to actively participate, they seem to disappear. ●



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Photo courtesy of Jasmine Young.

JASMINE YOUNG

Entertainer

When did you get involved with volunteering for the community and why? Since 1995 and now I'm 31 years old! I've always loved to help in the community; in fact, any community that I could be a part of, I did. I've received awards for volunteer of the year and was openly praised

for my commitment to the work. Not that I do it for personal praise, for I thank God that I can help with any chance I can.

What were some of your personal goals when you got involved? To feel wanted and to share my love with all, as I wish to receive in return.

What growth have you seen in the community since you became involved? In Vegas, I've only been here a year but I've done so much in that time it feels longer. The growth I wish to see is more unity among all the LGBT organizations, clubs and affiliates. That's how you grow: unity! One purpose! One mind! One human race!

How do you feel your efforts have made a difference? I feel good now, obviously, someone noticed my efforts and thank you for that. I'm glad to smile and hope to brighten up a day and that means so much as it would, if I could give money in its place.

What is your favorite yearly event that takes place in the Las Vegas community and why? I love them all! I love people! ●

When did you get involved with volunteering for the community and why?

When I moved here in 1994, I immediately got involved with NGRA because my girlfriend at the time was.

What were some of your personal goals when you got involved? At that time NGRA was the primary group I was involved with, and after the first year I had goals set. I wanted to be Ms. NGRA and was in 1998; then I wanted to compete for Ms. International, which I did and won; then I wanted to be Asst. Rodeo Director and did that in 2000 and knew I wanted to be Rodeo Director and was fortunate enough to do that in 2002. It was because of these goals I set for myself I was able to get a better insight into our community.

What growth have you seen in the community since you became involved? Oh my gosh, tons. The events out here get bigger and the cooperation I see between the non-profits is pretty wonderful to see.

How do you feel your efforts have made a difference? I hope a positive one. I believe every person should volunteer at least once in their lives. The feeling you get from it is something indescribable.

What is your favorite yearly event that takes place in the Las Vegas community and why? I am probably a little biased with this one, but definitely BigHorn Rodeo. For me personally, it's all about the relationships I have nurtured over the past 16 years, that camaraderie



LAURA SCOTT

NGRA

that we share. I also love the sport of rodeo. It's a little freaky I know, but when that rig shows up with all those bulls, steers, calves and horses, something about that smell brings it all back to me.

If you were named president of one of our non-profits for a day, what changes would you make? I would probably want to be the President of Men Of Charlie's and declare myself Woman of Charlie's for the month of July (my birthday). I always wanted to be the first ever Woman of Charlie's. ●



ICY & TITO SILVA

Las Vegas Pride 2010 Community Allies

In recognition of their outstanding service to the LGBT community at large and their staunch beliefs in protecting the rights of all LGBT individuals, Las Vegas PRIDE recently named Icy and Tito Silva as their 2010 LGBT Community Allies.

The Silvas' dedication and support has contributed to a safe and inclusive environment for the Las Vegas LGBT community. Becoming involved with the LGBT community was an easy decision for these proud parents of a gay son.

"Ever since we can remember, we knew he was

special. He was always involved in all aspects of his school's arts, drama, theater, and choir programs," Icy says. "In 2003 he began performing as a female impersonator at the Pride Factory, and in 2006 we realized how incredibly talented he was when he began to perform as Diva Toxxx at Charlie's. We were so proud to see him perform on the dance floor, and the rest is... history."

"As parents of a son, a gay son, our love for him knows no measures — we love him unconditionally," Icy says. Indeed, their son Anthony is blessed with a family that loves and supports him.

Proud to support their son and his community, Icy and Tito have been dedicated to the Las Vegas LGBT community for years, proudly supporting and aiding in the fund-raising efforts for local non-profits including Nevada Gay Rodeo Association, St. Therese Center, Las Vegas PRIDE, and more. Their willingness to be involved has earned them the respect, admiration, and love from everyone they come into contact with. Many of those that have met Icy and Tito have been known to call them Mom, Dad, Mama Toxxx or Papa Toxxx. "We are honored to be called these names," Tito says.

The Silvas have made it a point to embrace everyone and do their best to make a difference in the lives of those they come into contact with for the better. They are happy to be what they consider "just regular parents," and admit that "to not have [their] son in [their] lives, because he is gay, would be unfathomable." ●

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A Las Vegas man with magic hands is working to unite people, gay and straight, through a common bond of voices and music.

David Pohl is an independent massage therapist in Las Vegas and is the treasurer for the Las Vegas Men's Chorus, which is open to all men regardless of sexual orientation. He has been involved in music and the LGBT community since first moving to Chicago in 1987.

"I hadn't been 'out' very long and Chicago really opened my eyes to what was possible in the gay world," Pohl says. "The gay and lesbian community was so amazing and it inspired me to want to do more. I joined the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, took private vocal training lessons and have been singing and performing in choruses ever since."



DAVID POHL

Las Vegas Men's Chorus

Pohl, originally from Dayton, Ohio, says the move to Chicago had a profound effect on more than just his vocal performance.

"It was the first time I had lived anywhere else," he says. "During those few years, really being away from all that was familiar and being truly on my own starting a new life changed everything."

After coming to Las Vegas, Pohl used the experience from Chicago to support the Las Vegas Men's Chorus, established around 1991.

"I saw them perform a couple of songs at Pride that year," Pohl says, naming a prolific LGBT celebration held annually in Las Vegas. "I've been involved almost the entire time," he continues. Pohl has served as vice president for the chorus and was president for about seven years after that.

Pohl was the founding president for a "mixed" chorus, which eventually became the Las Vegas Gay and Lesbian Chorus in 1997.

Aaron Schave, a friend of Pohl's, is the president of the Men's Chorus and the vice president for the Gay and Lesbian Chorus. Schave commented on Pohl's giving nature, citing it as a driving force for developments in the community.

"He's always available and he always volunteers very, very thoroughly. He contributes all the support he can give. And he always gets the job done," Schave says.

According to Pohl, the time investment is absolutely worth it. "I'm proud to be involved be-

cause it's a great way to bring men together from a wide variety of backgrounds, age ranges, ethnic origins and education levels," Pohl says. "And no matter what our differences are . . . we still have a wonderful common bond through our voices and music. It creates a great sense of camaraderie."

Performing onstage is only one aspect of Pohl's life. "I'm also an independent massage therapist and have had my own practice for about seven years," he says. Pohl recently completed an animal massage and care certification at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and is beginning to integrate that into his regular practice.

Compassion for animals extends beyond Pohl's professional life.

Pohl and his partner Keith Brown have two McNab Shepherds, both of whom were rescues. "We loved the first one so much that we found another one to rescue a couple of years ago," Pohl explains. The dogs participate in the competitive sport called Flyball, a kind of dog race run relay-style that involves hurdles and tennis balls.

Schave comments on Pohl's passion for everything he's involved in, from singing to dogs to massage therapy and community outreach. "He's keeping our accompanist alive with those hands," Schave says with a laugh, explaining that Pohl regularly donates massage time to the group's pianist. "I don't know how he has time to do all the things he does. He's quite a human." ●

BY HANNAH BIRCH

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Photo courtesy of Jon Carmichael.

JON CARMICHAEL

Photographer

Few people get to wake up in the morning and know they do what they love and love what they do. Jon Carmichael is one of the few.

When the self-employed photographer isn't snapping shots of subjects, he chases after his dreams by avidly pursuing life goals.

"Life's too short to not do what you want," Carmichael comments. The 23-year old stated he tries to view life as a playground. Only instead of playing on a jungle gym, this photographer is flying airplanes. Yes—airplanes.

The future aviator is currently a flight school student and regularly logs flight hours, frequently flying out of Boulder City. He hopes to enhance his photography business with his newly acquired skill by offering aerial photography to his clients.

"Flying and taking photos at the same time, I can't ask for anything better," Carmichael states.

The successful photographer attributes much of his triumph, both personal and professional, to his coming out.

"I developed a lot of strength," Carmichael says. "We only have a short time in this life; you need to embrace who you are."

The entrepreneur focuses on making the most of his short time. This is evident in his recent line of work, as he admitted he loves to travel. The photographer is pursuing vacation documenta-

tion, where clients employ Carmichael to catch all their Kodak moments on personal vacays around the globe. He recently returned from a cruise excursion to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, and has plans in June to join a group on a wine tour to document their tastings all around France.

"It's this new avenue I want to go down," Carmichael says. "It's becoming really popular."

Picking up and leaving on a whim might sound ideal, but Carmichael advises the schedule of an entrepreneur such as himself has a price to pay.

"You have control over everything," the Vegas resident states, "which is a blessing and a curse at the same time because work isn't always consistent and sometimes you have too much work."

Whether an abundance of work is an issue for Carmichael or not, photog-fans will often catch him at work in his neighborhood coffee shop.

"I like to go to a Starbucks, put on my iPod and listen to music. I like to relax as much as I can but work really efficiently," the photographer says.

This solid work ethic and positive outlook on life does not go unnoticed by Carmichael's acquaintances. His friend Lorene Duffy confirms this.

"Jon is a very inspirational person," she says. "He has this really cool ability to make you go after your dreams."

Ready to go after yours? Take Carmichael's advice: "There's always a creative way out." ●

BY MARK ADAMS

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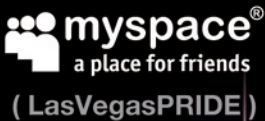
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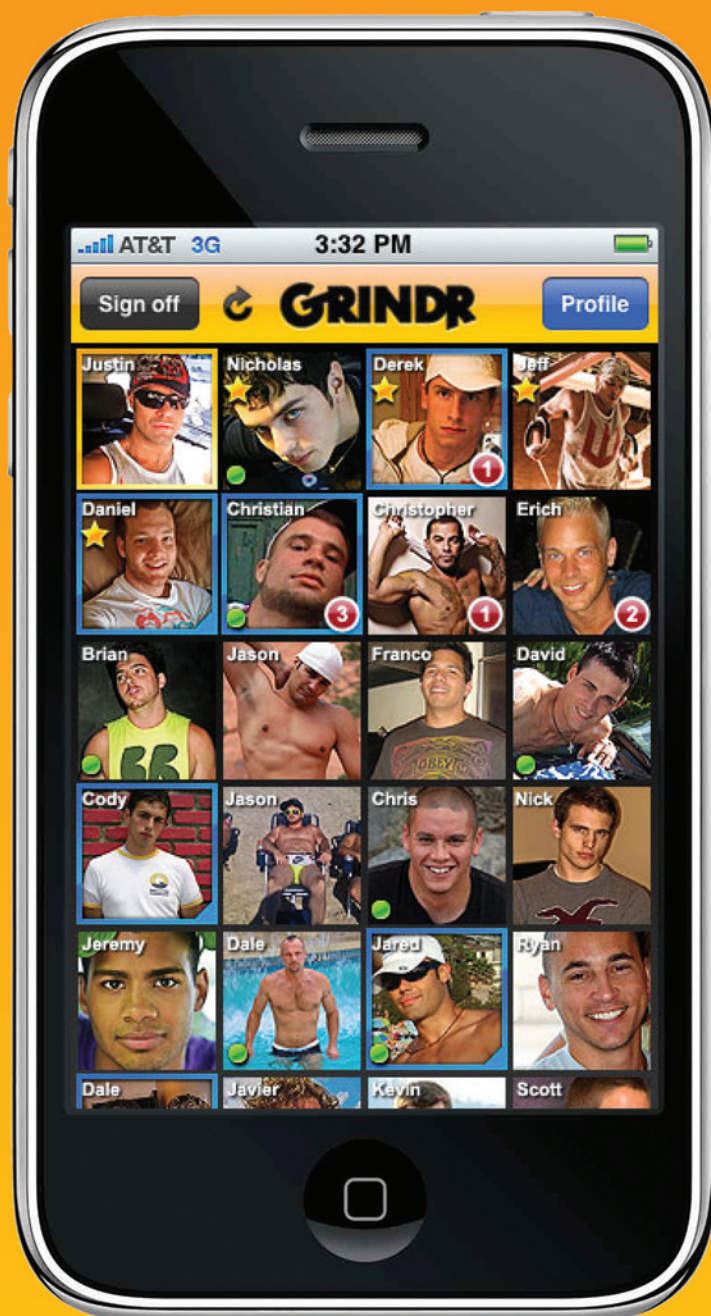
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The logo for Las Vegas Pride 2010. The words "LAS VEGAS" are at the top in white, spaced-out capital letters. Below them, the word "PRIDE" is written in large, bold, capital letters with a rainbow gradient. At the bottom, the word "2010" is written in white, bold, capital letters. The entire logo is set against a black background.

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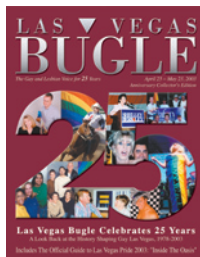
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A Look Back at Past Honorees



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David Parks • Joe Lamarca • Lee Plotkin
Mel Pohl, MD • Rob Schlegel
Dennis McBride • Claude Smith, RN
Randy Lloyd



29 PEOPLE WITH PRIDE

May 2007

Marcus Grissom (aka Kitty Litter)
Tod Story & Michael Ginsburg
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Ken Smith • Frank Feliz (aka Miss Frankie)
Dennis Dunn • Paul Speirs • Arlene Cooper
Terry Freeman (aka Ida Slapther)
John Monzo • Carol Hunter
John Saksa & Scott Ramer • Bill Schafer
Alan Huss (aka Aunt Betty) • Jack Novick
Jennifer Bolton & Vivian Wright-Bolton
Jeremy Blomgren • Daniel Greulich
Eugene Godina • Paul Scott • Boan Jordan
Donna Edwards • Tommy Licata
Brian Rogers • Jim Losell • James Healey
Michael Morse & Randy Lange



30 PEOPLE WITH PRIDE

May 2008

Randy Reinoso • Tony & Lloyd
Pete Glass • Strutt Hurlay
Josh Miller & Steve Amend
Jimmy Emerson • Adam Johnson
Frank Marino • Gary Horton
Gwen Migita • Terry Hernandez
Grace Morgan & Lois Dohra • Bella DaBall
Marlene Adrian & Denise Duarte
Nathan Mares • Larry Edwards
Chris Saldaña • Jake Naylor
Michelle Holiday • Chris Reynolds
Desirée Duncan • Paul De Vido
Marc Garcia • Tommy Licata • John Arnos
Sister Loosy Lust Bea Lady • Brent Lovett
Shaun Sewell • Tago La Femme
Tom Kovach



31 PEOPLE WITH PRIDE

May 2009

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Q NIGHT OUT

NIGHTLY GUIDE TO LAS VEGAS NIGHTCLUBS, BARS AND LOUNGES FOR LGBT PATRONS

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8½ and PIRANHA 4633 Paradise Rd. 702-491-0100	El Seseo Latin Night DJs Vago & Auner Las Sirenas 12a	Circus DJ Mikey Swift \$10 Liquor Bust	La Noche w/DJ Vago Sirenas Show 2a	Lingerie & Lace A Ladies Only Event	Boystown Liquor Bust DJs Mikey Swift & Chris Adams	Visit piranhavegas.com for details	Sex Saturdays DJ/VJ Scott K & DJ K Drag Show 11:30p
BACKDOOR 1415 E. Charleston Ave. 702-385-2018	Noches Nortenas (Latin Country Night) 9p - 2a	Karaoke Night 2-4-1 Drinks 10p - 4a	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 10a - Noon	Underwear Night 2-4-1 Drinks 10p - 4a	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 10a - Noon	Noches Latina (Latin Night) 10p - 6a	Noches Latina (Latin Night) 10p - 6a
BADLANDS SALOON 953 E. Sahara Ave. 702-792-9262	\$3.50 Beer Bust 9p - Midnight	Happy Hour 2-4-1 4p - 7p	Happy Hour 2-4-1 4p - 7p	Happy Hour 2-4-1 4p - 7p	Happy Hour 2-4-1 4p - 7p	\$5 Liquor Bust 7p - Midnight	\$5 Beer Bust 7p - Midnight
CHARLIE'S LAS VEGAS 5012 S. Arville St. 702-876-1844	\$5 Beer Bust 4-7p \$2 Long Isl. 7p - Mid Sunday Show 9pm	Beginner Dance Lessons 7-9pm and Ginger Grant 10pm	Happy Hour 4-7p FREE Drag Queen Bingo	Happy Hour 4-7p \$1 Mini-Pitch. 7p-2a Retro Night w/Trivia	Happy Hour 4-7p Line Dance Lessons Bear/Bare Chest Nite	NGRA Apprec. Night 75¢ Happy Hour 7-9p \$10 Liquor Bust 9p-1a	75¢ Happy Hour 7-9p \$5 Beer Bust 9p-1a
ENTOURAGE VEGAS 953 E. Sahara Ave. 702-650-9191	Open 24 Hours Salsa Sundays Latin music & videos	Open 24 Hours Boys Night Ages 18-21 in free	Open 24 Hours Dark Night All lights are off	Open 24 Hours Wise Wednesdays Ages 40+ get in free	Open 24 Hours Inked Show off your tats	Open 24 Hours Freebie Fridays Exciting giveaways	Open 24 Hours Packed House Our busiest night
ESCAPE LOUNGE 4213 W. Sahara Ave. 702-364-1167	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a/5-7p Karaoke 9p-1a	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p
FLEX 4371 W. Charleston Ave. 702-385-FLEX	Football Drink Specials and Free Food	Football Drink Specials and Free Food	Underwear Island with DJ Nutzz 10p-2a	Welfare Wednesday Desirae Penda'vis Midnight	2 for 1 Budweiser All Day Long	Confessions with JewDi Vine and DJ Ricoche 11pm	Ntoxxicated with Diva Toxxx 11p
FREEZONE 610 E. Naples Dr. 702-794-2300	Karaoke Happy Hour 4 - 8p Beer Bust 8p - 1a	Karaoke Happy Hour 4 - 8p Beer Bust 8p - 1a	Ladies Night Happy Hour 4 - 8p Beer/Lick-Her-Bust 8p - 1a	Beer Bust 8p - 1a Wicked Wednesdays 11:30p-1:30a	Naked Boy Frat Party Beer Bust 9:30p - 2a \$7 Liquor Bust	Queens of Las Vegas Show/Dance Party Beer Bust 8p - 1a	Queens of Las Vegas Show/Dance Party Beer Bust 8p - 1a
FUN HOG RANCH 495 E. Twain 702-791-7001	\$5 Beer Bust 6-9pm	Happy Hour 3-7p \$1.50 Long Island Iced Teas 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p \$5 Beer Bust 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p \$1.50 Margaritas 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p \$5 Beer Bust 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p	Come in, drink up and just have a great time.
GIPSY 4605 Paradise Rd. 702-666-8661	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Ghostmachine DJs Protokol & Romeo Romantic
GOODTIMES 1775 E. Tropicana Ave. 702-736-9494	Watch sports, mingle, drink, gamble and relax	Watch sports, mingle, drink, gamble and relax	Watch sports, mingle, drink, gamble and relax	Karaoke with Sheila 9p-1a	Watch sports, mingle, drink, gamble and relax	Vaquero Night \$10 Liquor Bust 10p-3a	Noche Calientes DJ Papi Chulo & DJ XTC 10p
KRAVE LAS VEGAS Harmon Ave. at LV Blvd. 702-836-0830	SINdaze: Vegas' 8th Deadly Sin hosted by JewDi Vine	Closed	Kouture DJ P.A. \$2 wells/\$5 premiums	WTF? Wednesdays DJ Earwxxx 11pm Win up to \$1000	THURSTdaze DJ Javier Alba Liquor/Beer Bust	Flesh with VJ Alpyne (main room) and sKizoFrenia (lounge)	World-class DJs in main room and Candybar in lounge
LAS VEGAS EAGLE 3430 E. Tropicana Ave. 702-458-8662	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - 5p and 10p - 2a	Monday Night Football with Brett	Karaoke with Mark & Brett 7p	Jock Strap and Underwear Night 7p - 3a	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - 5p and 10p - 2a	Jock Strap and Underwear Night 7p - 3a	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - 5p and 10p - 2a
SNICK'S PLACE 3rd St. off Las Vegas Blvd. 702-385-9298	Open 24 Hours	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	\$5 Beer Bust and \$6 Liquor Bust 9p - Midnight
SPOTLIGHT LOUNGE 957 E. Sahara Ave. 702-696-0202	\$1.50 Bloody Marys 8a - 4p \$5 Beer Bust 4 - 7p	\$5 Beer Bust Noon - 4p 2-4-1 9p - Midnight	\$5 Beer Bust Noon - 4p 2-4-1 9p - Midnight	Hump Day \$1.50 Well Screws or Margaritas 8a - 4p	Come hang out at the Spotlight Lounge	\$5 Liquor Bust 1 - 4p \$5 Beer Bust 8 - 11p	\$5 Beer Bust 12 - 3p Couples Night 6 - 9p Jock Night Mid - 3a

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BEATLES REVOLUTION LNG. The Mirage 702-692-8383	For you technology junkies, this has to be the coolest place in town with touch screen cocktail tables, great music and a couple of secret tricks to uncover. Check out Closet Sundays.	RHUMBAR The Mirage 702-792-7615	Designed in a style reminiscent of a mojito, with its white and green decor, Rhubarb is a new venue at The Mirage with a beautiful outdoor patio. Captiv8 is a gay night on Wednesdays.
BLUE MARTINI Town Square 702-949-BLUE	This new local hot spot is situated in Town Square and is always packed with great eye candy. Every night from 11 p.m. until close is hospitality pricing—half off drinks!	LAVO The Palazzo 702-791-1800	Check out the newest patio on the Las Vegas Strip by the Tao Group. Gays abound on Label Junkie Wednesdays with fashion shows taking place throughout the space.
CATHOUSE Luxor 702-262-4228	This swanky burlesque club/restaurant has hosted several gay events and is located in the Luxor. Great décor, sassy cocktail uniforms and fabulous lighting and sound.	STUDIO 54 MGM Grand 702-891-7254	A modern interpretation of the original, featuring state-of-the-art sound, video and lighting, live dancers and chart-topping dance music. 4 dance floors and go-go boys and girls.
CHRISTIAN AUDIGIER Treasure Island 702-894-7580	This renowned fashion designer turned nightclub connoisseur took over the space where Tangerine was in the Treasure Island and appointed it with some fierce bling. Check it out.	TAO The Venetian 702-388-8338	Restaurant, nightclub and ultra pool, this celebrity hang out is just hot. Found in the Grand Canal Shoppes at The Venetian.

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MAY 2010

QCALENDAR

SATURDAY, MAY 1

Las Vegas PRIDE Festival
Clark County Government Center, 12pm
www.lasvegaspride.org

Lily Tomlin
MGM Grand Hotel, 2:30pm
www.ticketmaster.com
Additional shows through May 5.

Conan O'Brien
Pearl Concert Theater, 9pm
www.ticketmaster.com
Another show on May 2.

Naked Boys Singing
Onyx Theatre, 10pm
www.onyxtheatre.com
Occurs every Friday and Saturday night with a matinee on Sundays at 3pm.

Heaven PRIDE Festival Afterparty
Bare Pool Lounge (at The Mirage), 10:30pm
www.lasvegaspride.org

Rocky Horror Picture Show
Onyx Theatre, Midnight
www.onyxtheatre.com
Occurs on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month.

SUNDAY, MAY 2

LVPT 3rd Ann. Western Regional Gathering
Imperial Palace
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com
Continues until May 6.

Sunkissed Pool Paty
Bare at The Mirage, 11am
www.eduardoprestns.com

Men's T-Dance
Blue Moon Resort, 12pm
www.bluemoonlv.com

"Get Wet With WEN" Women's Pool Party
Luxor Hotel & Casino South Pool, 12pm
www.myspace.com/womensnetworklv

Sin City Sisters PRIDE Bingo
Goodtimes, 5pm
www.sinsitysisters.org

Closet Sundays PRIDE Closing Party
Revolution Lounge (at The Mirage), 10pm
www.lasvegaspride.org

MONDAY, MAY 3

Free HIV and Hepatitis A&B Testing
The Center, 1-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com
Repeats every Monday afternoon.

Stonewall Democrats General Meeting
The Center, 6pm
www.sdcsn.blogspot.com

Improv Vegas
Onyx Theatre, 8pm
www.onyxtheatre.com
Repeats every Monday evening.

TUESDAY, MAY 4

IRSCDEI Court Meeting
The Center, 7:30pm
www.desertempire.org

SinCityQSocials Trendy Tuesdays
Location TBD, 8pm
www.sincityqsocals.com
Repeats every Tuesday night. See site for locations.

Sin City Sisters General Meeting
The Center, 8:30pm
www.sinsitysisters.org

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

NGRA Fundraising Committee Meeting
Location TBD, 6:30pm
www.ngra.com

Cinco de Mayo Salsa (Dip) Contest
Badlands Saloon, 7pm
www.desertempire.org

THURSDAY, MAY 6

Free HIV and Hepatitis A&B Testing
The Center, 1-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com
Repeats every Thursday afternoon.

FRIDAY, MAY 7

Flyleaf
Poolside at the Hard Rock, 7pm
www.ticketmaster.com

New Kids on the Block
Pearl Concert Theater, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com
Another show on May 8.

Schools in Session
Badlands Saloon, 8pm
www.desertempire.org

Ray Romano
Terry Fator Theater at The Mirage, 10pm
www.ticketmaster.com
Another show on May 8.

SATURDAY, MAY 8

NGRA Closet Ball
Charlie's Las Vegas, 8pm
www.ngra.com

Jabbawockeez
MGM Grand Hotel, 9:30pm
www.ticketmaster.com
Also occurs May 9 through 26.

SUNDAY, MAY 9

HRC Faith and Religion Group Meeting
The Center, 2pm
lasvegas.hrc.com

LVPT Movie Matinee
The Center, 2pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

MONDAY, MAY 10

NGRA BOD Meeting
The Center, 6:30pm
www.ngra.com

TUESDAY, MAY 11

Betty's Outrageous Adventures BOD Mtg.

The Center, 6:30pm
www.bettysout.com

THURSDAY, MAY 13

Cine Kink

Onyx Theatre, time varies
www.onyxtheatre.com
Continues until May 15.

Nevada Fertility C.A.R.E.S. Seminar

653 Town Center Drive, 6pm
www.nfcares.com

Vegas HEAT Car Club Meeting

The Center, 7pm
www.thecenterlv.com

SATURDAY, MAY 15

LVPT Meeting and Potluck

The Center, 4pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

SUNDAY, MAY 16

Paramore

The Joint at the Hard Rock, 7pm
www.ticketmaster.com

MONDAY, MAY 17

NGRA General Membership Meeting

The Center, 6:30pm
www.ngra.com

NGRA Finals Planning Committee Meeting

The Center, 7:30pm
www.ngra.com

TUESDAY, MAY 18

Women's Empowerment Network Meeting

The Center, 6pm
www.myspace.com/womensnetworklv

SNAPI General Meeting

The Center, 6:30pm
www.lasvegaspride.org

SinCityQSocials Trendy Tuesdays

Location TBD, 8pm
www.sincityqsocials.com

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

LVPT Casino Buffet Lunch

Sunset Station, 11:30am
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

Right Pride Meeting

Charlie's Lakeside, 6:30pm
www.rightpride.org

FRIDAY, MAY 21

CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

Submit full event details to Calendar@QVegas.com no later than the 15th of the month preceeding the event.

De LA Soul

Poolside at the Hard Rock, 9pm
www.ticketmaster.com

Steve Miller Band

M Resort Spa Casino, 9pm
www.ticketmaster.com

SATURDAY, MAY 22

LVPT Casino Brunch

Eureka Casino, 11:00am
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

LVPT Committee Meeting

The Center, 1pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

Styx and Foreigner

Mandalay Bay, 7pm
www.ticketmaster.com

MONDAY, MAY 24

IRSCDEI Board of Directors Meeting

The Center, 7pm
www.desertempire.org

TUESDAY, MAY 25

LVPT Movie Matinee

Location and time TBD
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

Log Cabin Republicans of Nevada Meeting

The Center, 6pm
www.logcabin.org

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

LVPT Cocktail Night Out

Snick's Place, 6pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

Stonewall Democrats BOD Meeting

The Center, 6:30pm
www.sdcn.blogspot.com

FRIDAY, MAY 28

Rusted Root

Poolside at the Hard Rock
www.ticketmaster.com

SATURDAY, MAY 29

Smokey Robinson

Star of the Desert Arena, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com

Barenaked Ladies

Mandalay Bay, 9pm
www.ticketmaster.com

Chelsea Handler

The Colosseum at Caesars Palace, 10:30pm
www.ticketmaster.com

SUNDAY, MAY 30

Blue Moon Memorial Day Pool Bash

Blue Moon Resort
www.bluemoonlv.com

SinCityQSocials Champagne Brunch

The Broiler at Boulder Station, 10am
www.sincityqsocials.com



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- 3 Charlie's Las Vegas, 5012 Arville St, 876-1844**
- CC Entourage Vegas Bath House, 953 E Sahara Ave, 650-9191**
- 6 Escape Lounge, 4213 W Sahara Ave, 364-1167**
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- FL FreeZone, 601 E. Naples, 794-2300**
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- 11 Las Vegas Eagle, 3430 E Tropicana Ave, 458-8662**
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- 13 Krave, 3663 Las Vegas Blvd S, 836-0830**
- 4 Revolution Lounge inside the Mirage, lightgroup.com**
- 14 Snick's Place, 1402 S 3rd St, 577-3648**
- CC Spotlight Lounge, 957 E. Sahara Ave, 696-0202**

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- 17** Freakin' Frog, 4700 S Maryland Pkwy, 597-9702
- 18** It's A Grind Coffee House, 8470 W Desert Inn Rd, 360-4232
- 19** Qdoba Mexican Grill, 5045 W Tropicana Ave, 871-7022
- 20** The Cupcakery, 7175 W Lake Mead Blvd, 835-0060
- 21** The Cupcakery, 9680 S Eastern Ave, 207-2253
- 22** Keva Juice, 605 Mall Ring Cir, 898-2844
- 23** Java Detour, 6087 S Pecos Rd, 450-0025
- 24** Mundo, 495 S. Grand Central Pkwy., 270-4400
- 26** Paymons Mediterranean Café, 8380 W. Sahara, 731-6030
- 27** Paymons Mediterranean Café, 4147 S. Maryland, 731-6030
- 28** Paymons Mediterranean Café, 107 E. Charleston, 272-0020
- 29** Whole Foods, 6689 Las Vegas Blvd S, 589-7711
- 25** Whole Foods, 8855 W Charleston Blvd, 254-8655
- 92** Yolies Brazilian Steakhouse, 3900 Paradise, Ste. 2, 794-0700

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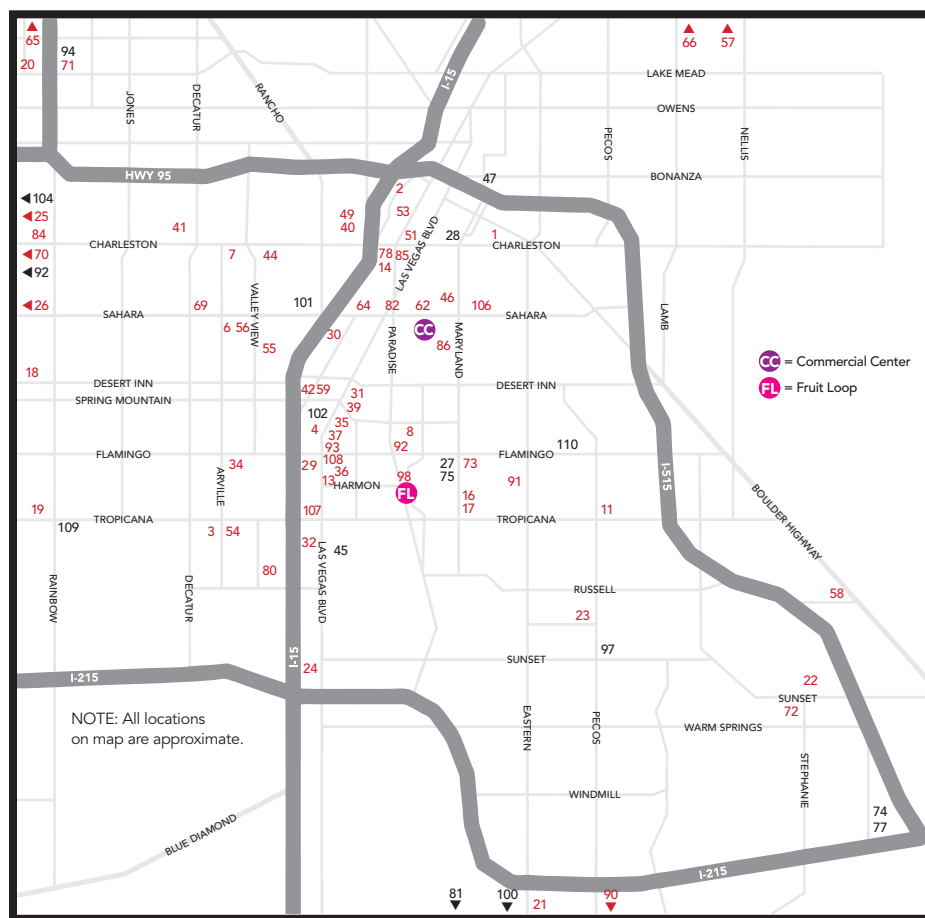
- 29** Bellagio Hotel Concierge, 3600 Las Vegas Blvd S
30 Blue Moon Resort, 2651 Westwood Dr., 361-9099
31 Encore Concierge, 3131 Las Vegas Blvd S
32 Luxor Hotel Concierge, 3900 Las Vegas Blvd S
34 Mandalay Bay Hotel Concierge, 3950 Las Vegas Blvd S
34 Palms Hotel & Casino Concierge, 4321 W Flamingo Rd
35 Palazzo Resort Concierge, 3325 Las Vegas Blvd S
36 Paris Hotel & Casino Concierge, 3655 Las Vegas Blvd S
37 Venetian Resort Concierge, 3355 Las Vegas Blvd S
39 Wynn Las Vegas Concierge, 3131 Las Vegas Blvd, 770-1571

ORGANIZATIONS

- 40** Aid for AIDS of Nevada, 701 Shadow Ln, 382-2326
41 Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S Brush St, 229-6383
42 Erotic Heritage Museum, 3275 S Industrial Rd, 369-6442
CC GLBT Center, 953 E Sahara Ave Ste B31, 733-9800
43 Golden Rainbow, 3233 W Charleston Blvd, 384-2899
45 Imago Dei Sunday Mass, 55 E Reno, 354-2294
46 Metro. Comm. Church, 1140 Almond Tree Lane, 369-4380
47 NALA, 323 N. Maryland Pkwy, 382-6252
CC Onyx Theater, 953 E. Sahara Ave, 733-7225
49 Southern NV Health District, 625 Shadow Lane, 759-0702
51 The Arts Factory, 107 E Charleston Blvd, 676-1111
40 Wellness Center, 701 Shadow Lane, 383-2691

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- 55** Adult World, 3781 Meade Avenue, 579-9735
- 56** Bare Essentials, 4029 W Sahara Ave, 247-4711
- 57** Desert Adult Books, 4350 Las Vegas Blvd N, 643-7982
- 58** Fantasy World, 6760 Boulder Hwy, 433-6311
- 59** Industrial Rd. Book, 3422 Industrial Rd., 734-7667
- 60** Glamour Boutique, 714 E Sahara Ave, 697-1800
- 64** Peep Land, 2424 Western Ave, 383-4993
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- 26 Body Fuel, 7960 W. Sahara Ave., Ste. 110, 255-3996
27 Borders Books & Music, 6521 Las Vegas Blvd S, 383-6734
69 Borders Books & Music, 2323 S Decatur Blvd, 258-0999
70 Borders Books & Music, 10950 W Charleston Blvd, 382-6101
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72 Borders Books & Music, 1445 W Sunset Rd, 433-6222
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85 Charleston Antique Mall, 307 W. Charleston, 228-4783
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FL Get Booked, 4640 Paradise Rd, 737-7780
81 Optical Effects, 8985 S. Maryland Pkwy, 435-3937
82 Paradise Mini Mart, 2242 Paradise Rd, 794-4082
FL Price Video, 700 E Naples Dr, 734-1342
84 Psychic Eye, 6848 W Charleston Blvd, 255-4477
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90 Vignettes Art, 1714 W Horizon Ridge Pkwy, 221-8350
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- 93** Alexandria's Salon, 3555 Las Vegas Blvd S
94 American Male, 2021 N. Rainbow, 405-0500
94 Arcs Salon, 3930 Las Vegas Blvd S
28 Azimi, DDS, 820 S. 7th St., 759-0005
100 Belle Ange Salon, 8630 S. Eastern Ave., 307-0173
97 Blush Salon, 6360 S Pecos Rd, 851-3100
98 Bronzed, 4480 Paradise Rd, 737-8266
102 Kim Vo Salon, 3400 Las Vegas Blvd S

- 101** LV Defense Group, 2300 W. Sahara, Ste. 800, 333-3673
36 Mandara Salon, 3655 Las Vegas Blvd S
104 NV Fertility C.A.R.E.S., 653 Town Center, Ste. 206, 341-6616
106 QVegas Magazine, 1380 E. Sahara Ave, 650-0636
107 Regis Signature Salon, 3790 Las Vegas Blvd S
108 Regis Signature Salon, 3645 Las Vegas Blvd S
110 Wuxin Healing Arts, 2840 E. Flamingo, 369-3406

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TAURUS 04/20-05/20

Communications skills shall be much more profound during May. Also, your charm factor skyrockets. So, you'll be able to charm the pants off anyone. But, don't go overboard with that gift. The 10th looks good for making extra cash. A three-day getaway on the 21st–24th turns out to be a Godsend.

GEMINI 05/21-06/21

Though there'll be plenty of it, be careful not to push your luck, especially on the 13th and 20th. Lunar aspects on the 26th make for a high romantic/sex drive. You may need to go out in disguise those days. A real estate deal completes on the 29th and you come out a winner. Try wearing shoes that actually fit for a change.

CANCER 06/22-07/22

You might feel a bit withdrawn for the first half of this month. Not to worry, Cancer. You'll still get quite a bit accomplished. Your natural social magnetism kicks in around the 14th. After that, your dance card should be filled through late June. Enjoy the solitude while you can.

LEO 07/23-08/22

There are many reasons to celebrate this month, Leo. Not the least of which will be that relationship which had been treading water, finally soaring to new heights. It's about time too. In a few more weeks, you might have lost out. Full Moon on the 27th adds oomph to your already high voltage magnetism.

VIRGO 08/23-09/22

This isn't the time to look for more things to do. You're already multitasking to the max. Ever hear of something called a day off? Even if it's just every two week, the body and nerves require rejuvenation. The 14th–16th looks great for a mini getaway. There may even be a surprise romantic encounter.

LIBRA 09/23-10/22

Unlike most signs, now is a terrific time to be starting up a business venture. This idea has been brewing for a while and now it's time to gather the financial backing. we don't feel you will have a problem with that. Stay off of highways on the 8th. The 22nd brings a surprise from out of town.

SCORPIO 10/23-11/21

Congrats on paying off another nasty credit card. We knew you could do it, Scorp! All it takes is will power (plus leaving the other plastic at home). Any excess money lying around we suggest that you bank it for a rainy day. A good massage will help with those super tight shoulders and neck.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21

Like Scorp, you paid off a debt too, but it was a personal one. Still it's a victory for spendthrift Sag. Go buy yourself a gift/toy, but a low budget one, like maybe a deluxe DVD. Annual Full Moon in your sign on the 27th brings in unexpected funds. Save $\frac{3}{4}$ of it and splurge on the rest.

CAPRICORN 12/22-01/19

Please keep away from the extreme drama of a family member. Getting too close can drain you dry. Pamper yourself on the 15th (maybe a day spa visit?). Business-related activities will be a tad busier than last month. You'll still have to tow the line financially. Physical energies strengthen after the 11th. Try some power walking.

AQUARIUS 01/20-02/18

Much of this month looks smooth and on an even keel. Won't that be a nice change from the usual chaos? Dealings with the boss will go very well, especially on the 9th and 26th. Take that car in for a checkup before a minor glitch becomes a major (and expensive) problem. The month ends with a joyous phone call.

PISCES 02/19-03/19

it's best to keep a low profile on the 5th and 6th. Accept that dinner date invite on the 7th. You'll be on the road virtually all day come the 20th. Keep that idea/patent you've been working on a secret for a while longer. Keep your keys, day planner and cell phone glued to you on the 30th.

ARIES 03/20-04/19

It's a good time to contemplate taking some online classes. Now that you can afford them and have some freed-up time. May won't prove to be nearly the endurance test that April was. Social activities look strongest for the 8th, 16th and 23rd. Make sure to look your best (not that you'd ever slack off).



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PRIDE isn't about labels

I'm exhausted.... You see, I've been focused on one thing with little more than sleeping breaks for the past three months and its time has nearly arrived. No, I'm not awaiting the newest computer game or surfing the Web. The other 17 members of the Southern Nevada Association of PRIDE, Inc. (SNAPI) board and I have been working on Las Vegas' largest LGBT event of the year, Las Vegas PRIDE, and it's almost arrived.

A lot of work goes into planning Las Vegas PRIDE events. Take, for example, the Annual PRIDE Night Parade. The two-hour event is quite an undertaking and the majority of the 10,000+ attendees never pause to think about what goes on behind the scenes. Parade permits and traffic control plans have to be filed; police officers and crowd control must be arranged, coordinated and paid for; staging, bleachers, vehicles and pedestrian rails are rented; signage and advertising designed, printed and placed; parade entry forms created, distributed, and collected; hosts, judges and broadcasters are selected... the list goes on and on... and on. It's an incredible feat of organization and troubleshooting to ensure the parade runs smoothly. Last year, just as the parade was about to commence, we faced unexpected winds that literally blew some of the parade entries away and caused rumors of cancellation to circulate. Though the winds were unexpected and quite a nuisance, it didn't rain on our parade and the next morning brought clear skies and sunshine at the festival.

If you think the parade sounds like a lot of work, imagine what it takes to organize the PRIDE Festival. It's a daunting task, and not for the weak-hearted or easily stressed. The festival is an incredible orchestration of hundreds of volunteers, exhibitors, and entertainers... and it passes in a flash.

Now that I've mentioned it, I'm sure you're wondering what's new at the PRIDE Festival this year. My answer would be that there is actually quite a bit that's new and/or improved!

Las Vegas Pride 2010 is in its "greenest" year ever. This year, all festival trash will be collected and sorted through a partnership



with RENUoil's Recycle Team. They will sort and recycle all of our plastic water and soda bottles as well as all aluminum and paper. We'll also be recycling the used cooking oil from our food vendors and other recyclable materials. We are proud of our continued quest to become a more environmentally responsible PRIDE. Go ahead and throw all your recyclable materials in any of our trash receptacles knowing that we're doing the recycling for you!

For the children, We Are Family is back at the festival again this year to provide a safe, air-conditioned environment for the kids to play, create and imagine. There will be balloon artists, face painting and art projects to keep them busy and out of the heat.

We've expanded the festival again and

added more exhibitors and entertainment. The board has also been working hard to ensure the main gate operates more efficiently than years past so that you can enter the festival quickly and enjoy yourself within the festival grounds longer.

Thanks to an evolving partnership with Crush, Las Vegas PRIDE joins with the growing trend of smokefree PRIDE celebrations across the country. Crush promotes a fresh and smokefree lifestyle amongst the Las Vegas LGBT community. It is with their help that we have adopted a smokefree policy for the PRIDE Festival and created designated smoking areas.

Speaking of sponsors and partnerships, it's important to note that the assistance and insight of our many valued sponsors has greatly aided our efforts to grow, improve and expand PRIDE year after year. Without our sponsors, PRIDE wouldn't be what it is today and couldn't continue to improve in future years.

It takes a lot of work and a lot of time to plan a festival of this size. Every year, I ask myself, "Why?" I'm exhausted, I'm grumpy, and I haven't been able to get to the gym in months because I've been focused on deadlines, meetings and planning. Why am I putting myself through this? The answer is simple: I work on PRIDE events for the community it represents and the feeling of oneness it provides. At PRIDE, so many of the differences which often divide us become non-issues. It is a celebration of life and the right to live and love as we choose. Straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning... *fantastic!* PRIDE isn't about labels; it's about acceptance uninhibited by labels or discrimination. It's about being proud of who we each choose to be. PRIDE is all about *you*... and on May 1, I hope your pride is showing! ●

The Las Vegas PRIDE Celebration is organized by the Southern Nevada Association of PRIDE, Inc. (SNAPI). For more information about PRIDE events or to find out how you can become involved in future events, visit www.LasVegasPRIDE.org or call (866) 930-3336.

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